

MARCH 1949

MAR 16 1949



AMERICAN

CATTLE PRODUCER

• THE CATTLEMAN'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

IN THIS ISSUE:
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY
FLORIDA JOURNEY

• STOCKMAN'S TAX
• THE LOOKOUT
• BILLS IN CONGRESS

"Hitting the Market"

Farmers try to sell livestock when prices are at a peak. But there's more to "hitting the market" than just good timing.

Having the right *kind* of livestock to sell is even more important. To sell at top prices, lambs, cattle, calves, and hogs must be of the type, size, finish and quality that can be processed into retail cuts bringing highest prices from consumers.

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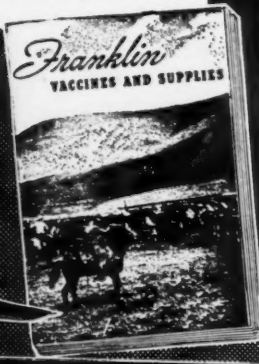
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FRANKLIN VACCINES SUPPLIES

CUTTER SINCE 1897 Roundup

A rancher friend of mine got me out of bed at three A. M. last week. He had come across several dead calves while range-riding and was really on the prod.

"It looks like blackleg," he says, "and can you come down pronto?"

I piled my instrument bag into the car and got away at the crack of dawn. He met me at the four corners and we finished the trip on horseback.

We found a newly-dead calf and did a post mortem. I wasn't too sure—field diagnosis is never too positive—but the laboratory findings later proved that his "blackleg" diagnosis was all wet. It turned out to be malignant edema, which is almost a twin to "blackleg" and kills just as fast.

Here's the point I'm making: Telling the difference between blackleg and malignant edema is plenty difficult and darned near impossible without a smart laboratory technician backing up your suspicions.

Knowing that these two thugs, blackleg and malignant edema, often work together, vaccine has been developed to prevent both of them in the same shot—and at no fancy inflated price!!!!*

In other words, if it's no more trouble and won't make a noticeable dent in your pocketbook, why take a chance with your livestock?

All of you stockmen who read the livestock publications know the dangers of internal parasites. These modern cow thieves have no rope or hideout, but they're deadly. I just came back from a trouble call where about 1,500 head of weaners were involved. The entire bunch were unthrifty, anemic, scouring badly, and we found a lot down and a number dead. They were too weak to stand the recent cold spell. Phenothiazine seems to be doing a better-than-average job in controlling internal parasites, and ranchers using it swear by it. They should be treated with the recommended dose when parasites are first noted, and again 14 days later. Good management means that you'll have to get up early and do some thinking to beat the bugs to the draw.

See you next month...

Jim

*Blacklegol "S"—CUTTER—"Alhydrox" absorbed for safe, lasting immunity.

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

WYOMING REPORT—Our roads have just been opened. . . . Our mail has been traveling by "pony express" for the past two months. We have had very little loss and have plenty of hay to last until green grass. The cattle are looking fine here at the ranch, although several of our neighbors have reported large losses. —Mrs. Joe H. Watt, president, Wyoming CowBelles, Moorcroft, Wyo.

WISH WE COULD HELP—If you control the snow, please have it stopped! We are snowbound (Feb. 13). —Mrs. Jesse Conover, secretary, Utah CowBelles, Ferron, Utah.

MORE STORM NEWS—We are having quite a hard winter in Carter County, Mont. Lots of snow and bad weather. I believe most cattle in this section are O. K. so far, but have taken quite a shrink. If March doesn't get too tough, most cattle will winter; but look for some losses over the country if it is bad. The mail gets through by plane. Have had mail three times since the first of January. —Charles J. Thompson, Harding County, S. D.

LUCKIER THAN SOME—Since Dec. 16 we have been really snowbound. Have had a tough time caring for our livestock but have managed to keep all alive so far. Surely feel sorry for those ranchers in Wyoming and Colorado, and other neighboring states, who lost so much stock. This winter will never be forgotten by any stockman. My dad, who has lived here in North Dakota for 49 years, says this the worst one he has experienced. . . . It has been a great pleasure getting the PRODUCER these wintry days.

I used the DDT 25 per cent spray for flies and other pests with great results and plan to do so again this year. I noticed no grubs on my stock this year. —Walter A. Fjeldahl, Ward County, N. D.

A HARD SEASON—The first letter I've been able to write for five weeks, but I'm mending slowly. (My heart got pretty badly overtaxed.) . . . So sorry to miss the convention.

We lost very few in the storm, and most of them due to over-eating dry hay before they watered, after three days with no food or water. The fact that we use Percherons and mules in four-ups to cable and string our hay has been the real McCoy this time. It is hard on them to wallow belly deep in hard-frozen snow, but even harder on the sons and their help. Kenneth overworked by shoveling out a stack that had snow shoulder deep all around it. . . . The phone was out and all roads drifted shut that night. The snowplow let him come

to town the next day, so he was added to our private hospital. He is out again but must go easy.

Unless you see this ocean of hard-packed snow, from a foot to 30 feet deep, you can't realize how it is. A near chook today will help. —F. E. Messersmith, Box Butte County, Nebr.

SNOW IN NEVADA—There is so much snow around here all the country roads are closed up. . . . This winter has been rugged and has a lot of cattlemen worried. I have a tractor and dozer and have so much extra work that I can hardly handle it. —Russel S. Weeks, president, Nevada State Cattle Association.

(Editor's Note: One of the remarkable things about these western storms is the spirit of friendship and helpfulness that they have uncovered, at the very time they were physically covering almost everything else. Nearly every letter received in this office has contained some word of sympathy for the predicament of those who may have suffered greater hardships than the writer.) (Continued on Page 45)

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

The Lookout

Sidelights and comments on the livestock news of the day.

IMPORTS

The USDA announces that we may get as many as 300,000 to 400,000 cattle from Canada this year, but probably will get fewer than that. We hope the department comes closer on this year's estimate than it did last year, when it said we would receive 100,000 cattle from Canada. Actually, 445,000 came in during the latter half of 1948.

LIVESTOCK POPULATION

Instead of a decline in cattle numbers last year, we had an increase. It was only about 350,000 head, but some people had forecast a decrease of as much as several million. From the new figure, it would appear that the bottom of the "cattle cycle" in numbers has been reached. The number of beef cows and heifers two years old and over is almost the same this year as last, so it is shown again that there has been no substantial liquidation of beef breeding herds.

STORM LOSSES

Some of the people in Washington, D. C., who have been in close touch with ranchers in the storm areas think the USDA estimate of loss of 81,000 cattle and 97,000 sheep is too low. Most people agree with the USDA that there will be additional losses and heavy shrinkage in weight; some think losses will be as heavy again from now on out.

You have to go back to 1885-86 for anything like the recent storms. One suspects that if we had no better equipment than in 1886, the losses this year would far exceed those suffered then. Full credit must be given to the states, the army, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management for their co-operation with men and machines. Modern equipment for clearing roads and getting feed to isolated places greatly reduced losses.

TARIFF

The resolution passed by the Women's Patriotic Conference on March, 1949

National Defense recently in Washington shows that some people are beginning to "wake up" about the reciprocal trade program. This group realizes that tariff fixing should be directed by Congress—not confined to Executive; that a balance of power is desirable. . . . The House has okehed extension of the reciprocal power without even retaining the "peril point" amendment which meant only that if the Tariff Commission found any domestic industry in peril it should so report together with recommendation on a tariff rate to the President, who, not having to heed the report, would be under obligation to make public such report and recommendations. There is a slight possibility that the Senate will retain this safeguard.

TOP ORGANIZERS

The Livestock Industry Advisory Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease said in Washington, D. C., that they were well satisfied with the conduct of the eradication program. This committee itself has done a good job in the fight and the co-Administrator of the present campaign, General H. H. Johnson and Oscar Flores are master organizers and have expanded the program beyond anyone's hopes.

SOCIAL BILLS

If the 75-cent minimum hourly wage becomes law it will affect ranchers even though farm labor may not be included. Ranchers and farmers have to compete for workers. . . . Social security for the farm and ranch is being talked about. An explanation of how it might work is given in a short item in this issue.

THE HOPE BILL

The Hope bill of the last Congress, reintroduced as H.R. 849, has been changed somewhat from last year and one notable difference is that the section on authorizations to the secretary of agriculture does not contain the words "to acquire by condemnation or otherwise." The measure calls for consolidations and would replace the present local supervision in Bureau of Land Management and the Soil Conservation service by centralized authority.

GROWTH

Something is happening in the livestock cattle association field that is good to see. Three widely separated groups—the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, the Malheur County association in Oregon, and the Northwest Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association have joined the American National since Jan. 1. Year after year new groups have come into the "National" set-up, until now 138 groups—not only in the West but reaching out to the South and East—are members.

ARMY BEEF PURCHASES

The army is buying boned beef in pretty sizeable lots on both the east and west coasts and it has been stated that its purchases in the next 60 days will amount to about 10,000,000 pounds. Recently after pressure from many western congressmen the army said it would make no purchase of Argentine beef at this time, but it reserves the right to reopen the question.

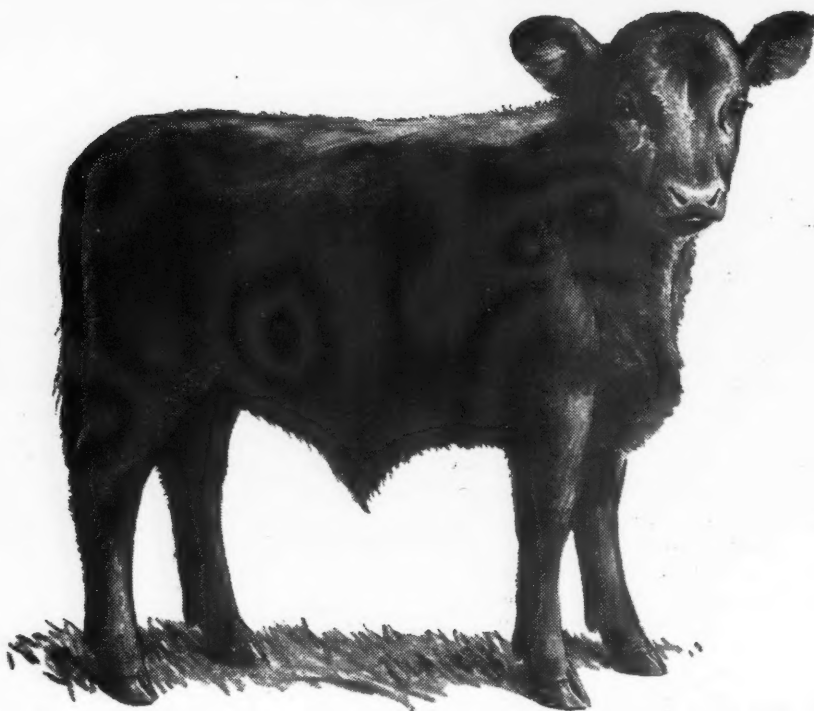
DISASTER LOANS

It seems certain that loans from some source will be provided for the hard hit ranchers in the storm area. President A. A. Smith of the American National, Albert Mitchell, past president of the organization, and others conferred on the matter at Denver, proposing that banks and production credit associations be authorized to make such loans with Reconstruction Finance Corporation backing. There are several bills—one by Frank Barrett (Wyo.) to make loans through the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporations, which to everyone's surprise still exists (guess nothing is ever really closed out in Washington), and one by O'Mahoney and Hunt (Wyo.).

PRICE CONTROL

Deflation worries more people than inflation. However, President Truman is still insisting on some kind of price control power. So that question is still something to watch out for.





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The Reorganization Plan

THE REPORT of the Hoover committee on reorganization of the executive branch of the federal government is supposed to be "top secret" until it is officially presented to Congress. Actually, the newspapers in recent weeks have been publishing detailed accounts of the reports of the various task committees handling specific assignments, some of the members of which apparently cannot avoid the urge to get into print quickly.

There is pretty general agreement on the part of all citizens that such a reorganization of the executive department is long overdue. There are numerous duplications, sometimes two or three divisions of one department carry on much the same kind of statistical research while there is the same or even greater duplication as between different departments of the government.

There will, of course, be substantial objection from many groups who feel that while the scheme in general is good they have a valid objection to the handling of the particular department or agency in which they have a special interest. Employees of the government will find objection because it means fewer jobs. So far as the livestock industry is concerned, many users of public lands have for years complained of the fact that there are so many different agencies with which they have to deal in the handling of their own operations. There are half a dozen or more which handle and lease or permit the use of grazing lands. The PRODUCER believes there will be quite general agreement as to the need for reorganization and simplification of the management of federal lands.

The objection that has so far been registered to the handling of the federal lands as indicated in the advance reports referred to deals not so much with the concentration of authority in a single agency as with the choice of the agency itself. The Department of the Interior from the beginning has been the main agency of the government concerned with the management of the public lands and resources of the West. The principal differentiation from this policy was the separation from the public domain of the national forest areas which for many years have been under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. Rumor has it that the task force which dealt with this matter was by no means unanimous. First, we are told that a decision was reached that the concentration of land management agencies should be in the Department of the Interior. This news leaked out and apparently sufficient pressure was brought upon this committee that by the narrow margin of one vote it reversed its decision

and the final recommendation, again according to the advance reports, was to place all land management agencies in the Department of Agriculture.

It seems certain that with the concentration of the land measurement agencies in the Department of Agriculture the Forest Service would be the dominant factor in the new set-up. That would destroy the fine working relationship which has been brought about as a result of the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act and years of effort between the Department of the Interior and the stockmen to reach a practical, simplified method of land management with the best possible results from the standpoint of land use and conservation and with a bureau to service it limited in size but adequate to insure efficiency and proper cooperation.

Without doubt there will be vigorous opposition on the part of Congress supported by the industry itself to this handling of the matter. Stockmen have had long and costly experience with the Forest Service. It has been pretty clearly demonstrated that to it the livestock use of the forest ranges is the "tag end" use, if no other use can be found for them and no valid excuse can be given for total exclusion of the livestock. The Forest Service has repeatedly denied that it is unfriendly to the grazing use of the national forests, but, despite this fact, the record shows a steady trend in the direction of total exclusion and this has been particularly marked under the present management of the Forest Service.

Western senators, and congressmen, fully cognizant of the facts set forth above, will not be willing to see the further development of the West hampered by turning over to the tender mercies of the Forest Service the additional millions of acres of public domain lands now under the direction of the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior. The West has too much at stake to sit idly by and see a further sharp check upon its aspirations for growth and development in line with its resources and capabilities.

Fortunately the question of where these agencies should be concentrated does not sacrifice the intent of the reorganization plan itself. There will be just as much economy in concentration in the Department of the Interior as there would be in the Department of Agriculture. It is to be hoped that there will be full opportunity for hearings before the proper committees of Congress in order that all the facts may be brought forth. The task force committees which were set up to do the speed work in this matter had an objective. It does not necessarily follow that the method proposed is the only one through which the desired goal can be reached.

The Price Break

EVERYONE knew that the high prices of last summer and fall couldn't last forever, but it seems to us that the drastic price break in recent weeks was unjustified. It puts prices for fed steers entirely out of line with almost all other commodities and has caused tremendous losses to cattle feeders. There has been some recovery but losses will continue on the bulk of fed cattle going to market.

Figures show a sharp increase in the slaughter of fed steers in January compared with December, 1948, and January, 1948. But the total January slaughter was considerably below that of a year ago. And it was strange that while there was a \$5 to \$6 decline per cwt. in good grade steers at Chicago in one year the price of sausage bulls was exactly the same on a recent check—\$22.80 a

cwt.—as a year ago. Actually at the same time that this \$22.80 price was quoted on sausage bulls, good grade steers in Chicago were quoted at \$23.55—less than \$1 per cwt. difference.

Many things contributed to this situation: The increasing importation in the latter six months of 1948 of cattle, dressed beef and veal from Canada and canned beef from South America which converted to a live-animal basis added up to at least 900,000 head of cattle; income taxes probably were a factor of some little degree; consumers are not spending so much of their disposable income on meat because there is more bidding for their dollars by the fairly ample supply of manufactured goods scarce so long following the war.

It seems to boil down to a situation in which a new plane of meat prices will rule and this new plane will be reflected to producers of range cattle next fall, so

most assuredly the interest of the range-man in the welfare of the feeder is genuine and direct. In this instance prices certainly went down too far, and the only thing that would stop liquidation was to keep putting prices down until the surplus could be moved into consumption and the feeder would hold up shipments to give the market a chance to right itself.

Another factor in the situation is that in the rapidly sliding cattle market, retail, hotel, restaurant and dining car prices lagged far behind the decline in fat cattle. The situation has now been substantially corrected, particularly in retail outlets.

The drastic break points up clearly what has happened before: That a slight oversupply of any given commodity can depress markets to a degree out of all proportion to the amount of the surplus.

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

THE number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches increased 0.5 per cent during 1948. The increase was from 78,126,000 Jan. 1, 1948, to 78,495,000 Jan. 1, 1949, thereby breaking the down trend in numbers which began in 1945. (The estimate is not adjusted for losses that occurred after Jan. 1, as a result of storms in western states. Up to Feb. 1, storm losses were estimated as follows: Nebraska, 46,000; South Dakota, 16,000; Wyoming, 16,000; Colorado, 3,000; a total of 81,000 head.)

Cattle and calf numbers were at an all-time peak at the beginning of 1945 with 85,573,000 head. The number this Jan. 1 was 8 per cent below that peak, but was about 17 per cent larger than the 1935-39 pre-war average of 66,814,000 head.

Principal areas of the nation showing increases in cattle numbers during 1948 are the western Corn Belt states where there was a large increase in the number of cattle being fattened in feedlots on Jan. 1, 1949, and in the mountain states and the Pacific Coast states except California. Numbers were smaller than a year earlier in most of the South Atlantic and South Central states. In Texas, cattle numbers decreased for the fifth successive year to 8,235,000 head, the lowest number since 1942.

Producing Capacity Still High

Changes in the age and sex classification of animals are of particular significance this year. Beef cows and heifers, one year old and over, total 20,750,000 head and account for 26.4 per cent of the total inventory of cattle and calves. This unusually high percentage of female beef animals reveals efforts of stockmen to maintain herds for continued large calf crops and possible expansion in production. The number of steers one year old and over totaled 7,415,000 head, an increase of 10 per cent, reflecting the larger number of cattle in feedlots. The

CATTLE AND SHEEP NUMBERS JAN. 1, 1949, IN SELECTED STATES

	(Thousands)			
	All Cattle	% of 1948	All Sheep	% of 1948
Ariz.	866	99	420	88
Cal.	2,736	90	1,850	94
Colo.	1,854	103	1,705	90
Fla.	1,265	100	14	100
Ida.	975	105	1,101	90
Kan.	3,591	108	711	98
La.	1,332	100	127	75
Miss.	1,522	09	100	99
Mont.	1,995	108	2,139	99
Neb.	3,911	103	759	97
Nev.	546	103	473	96
Utah	571	105	1,456	90
N. D.	1,590	100	450	85
Okla.	2,481	99	131	85
Ore.	1,118	108	738	101
S. D.	2,556	102	961	91
Tex.	8,235	96	6,628	88
N. M.	1,167	102	1,423	98
Wash.	885	104	362	97
Wyo.	1,011	96	2,170	90
U. S.	78,495	100	31,963	92

number of bulls declined, but the number of calves under one year of age increased a little over 1 per cent.

Milk cows and heifers 2 years old and over totaled 24,450,000 head Jan. 1, 1949. A decrease of 2 per cent or 589,000 head during 1948. This number was the smallest since 1931. The number of milk cows, as was the case with the number of total cattle, reached a peak in 1945 with 27,770,000 head and the number has declined each year since. The number of heifer calves being kept for replacement at 6,608,000 head is 121,000 head larger than a year earlier, but the number of one-to-two-year-old milk heifers was 2 per cent smaller.

Cattle prices despite declines late in the year made further substantial gains during 1948 and on Jan. 1, 1949, the average value per head set a new high of \$135, or \$19 higher than a year earlier. Milk cow prices advanced sharply to \$193, an increase of \$29. The larger number of cattle together with increased prices resulted in a record inventory value of \$10,587 million. This was an increase of 16 per cent from \$9,094 million value Jan. 1, 1948, and marked the first time in the history of the cattle

industry that the inventory value has exceeded 10 million dollars.

Sheep Continue Down

Stock sheep and lambs continued to decline, making 7 years of continuous decline in inventories. Stock sheep and all sheep numbers are the lowest of record, dating back to 1867. Stock sheep numbers are now 27,818,000 head, a decline of 7 per cent or 2,158,000 head during 1948 and are 21,528,000 head below the recent peak numbers of 49,346,000 head on Jan. 1, 1942. Stock sheep in the 13 western sheep states declined 7 per cent during 1948, with Texas showing a decline of 12 per cent. Sheep and lambs on feed for market Jan. 1, 1949, totaled 4,145,000, a decrease of 15 per cent, or 706,000 head, from a year earlier and the smallest number on feed since 1925.

Breeding eyes one year old and over declined nearly 7 per cent. Ewe lambs held for replacement were 4 per cent below a year earlier and were only 18 per cent of the breeding ewes, which is not sufficient to check the falling inventories, considering the large disposal.

Hogs Up

The number of hogs on farms was estimated at 57,139,000 head, 4 per cent above the 55,028,000 on farms Jan. 1, 1948—and 6 per cent below the 1938-47 average. This is the largest Jan. 1 number since 1946 but is 32 per cent below the all-time peak of 83,741,000 on farms Jan. 1, 1944.

Plenty of Feed

With Jan. 1 stocks of feed grains on farms 57 per cent above last year and livestock and poultry numbers slightly smaller, the supply of feed in relation to livestock numbers was much more favorable than last year and the most favorable ever experienced.

A relatively heavy slaughter of cattle and calves in 1948 was supported by a good calf crop and to a small extent by imports from Canada. The January number in sheep shows up the smallest in 81 years of record.

Horses and mules declined sharply, continuing the downward trend which began in 1915 for horses and 1925 for mules.

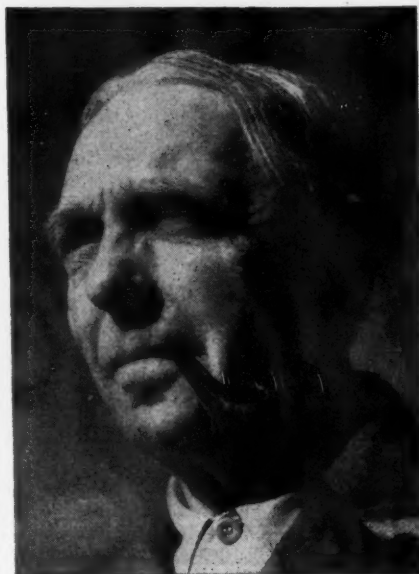
ANNUAL LIVESTOCK INVENTORY, JAN. 1, 1949

(In Thousands)

Year	BEEF CATTLE				Total	Milk Cattle	Total Cattle	Total Hogs	Total Sheep
	Cows & Heifers 2 Years & Over	Heifers 1-2 Years	Calves	Steers	Bulls				
1935	11,151	3,362	10,980	5,323	1,673	32,489	36,357	68,846	39,066
1936	11,048	3,493	10,754	5,637	1,643	32,395	35,452	67,847	42,975
1937	10,682	3,229	10,395	5,325	1,614	31,245	34,853	66,098	43,083
1938	10,132	3,136	10,053	5,555	1,599	30,475	34,774	65,249	44,525
1939	9,987	3,058	10,572	5,192	1,594	30,403	35,626	66,029	50,012
1940	10,676	3,357	10,936	5,283	1,625	31,877	36,432	68,309	61,165
1941	11,366	3,789	11,413	6,119	1,685	34,372	37,383	71,755	54,353
1942	12,578	4,055	12,219	6,596	1,740	37,188	38,837	76,025	60,607
1943	13,980	4,547	13,239	7,361	1,837	40,964	40,240	81,204	73,881
1944	15,521	4,971	13,768	7,849	1,968	44,077	41,257	85,334	83,741
1945	16,456	5,069	12,871	8,329	1,999	44,724	40,849	85,573	59,331
1946	16,319	4,854	12,565	7,715	1,888	43,341	39,093	82,434	61,301
1947	16,469	4,664	12,595	7,164	1,847	42,739	38,469	81,207	56,921
1948	16,000	4,541	11,890	6,743	1,777	40,951	37,175	78,126	55,028
1949	16,033	4,717	12,044	7,415	1,716	41,925	36,570	78,495	57,189

Some Things I Would Like to Have Said at North Platte . . .

A PROMINENT LONG-TIME
AMERICAN NATIONAL
LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION
MEMBER CONTRIBUTES
THESE THOUGHTS



Dan D. Casement of Manhattan, Kan.

I COME to the meetings of the American National association annually, not with the expectation that our deliberations and the measures here inaugurated will benefit my business but because of the spiritual lift I get by looking into the faces of a group of men and women who know the worth of freedom, whose common sense tells them their freedom is fast being usurped by government and whose integrity will not permit them to blink that deplorable fact.

The framers of our Constitution rightly held the freedom of the individual to be more precious than life itself. That concept issued from their correct appraisal of the nature of a human being and was implanted by their faith in Nature herself and by their recognition of their complete dependence on her. Knowing from bitter experience how prone is government to usurp man's liberty, they draw up a document conceding to the state only such proper functions as would provide for defense, for the maintenance of public order and for the decreeing of justice.

Thus implemented with freedom, our

forbears in only a few score years contributed more to the advancement of civilization and to freeing human beings from the toil and discomfort of existence than had been previously achieved in all the thousands of years of recorded history. Surely that is sufficient proof of the truth of their concept, the wisdom of their design.

We here and now have virtually destroyed the glorious document they wrote and have denied the truth of its inspiration. Most of the world today is falsely appraising economic security as more desirable than personal freedom and is thus well advanced on the road that leads to socialism or communism, which are equally despicable and have the same mendacious origin. That the United States is now deep sunk in that fallacy is certainly apparent to your honest minds. You can best serve your country and your own personal interests by boldly asserting that fact. It is today an unpopular truth but you can't begin to tell it too soon.

It is up to you and the few like you to keep alive the sacred fire of freedom which will one day rekindle the morality of man and reanimate the world.

An indomitable impulse for freedom is inherent in the very nature of man and therefore he will not long endure the domination of the state, however fulsome may be its promises of security which our common sense tells us are utterly specious and impossible to fulfill. Only your example of fidelity and courage, supplementing the brutal chastening that Nature will soon inflict on the adherents of this folly (and unhappily upon us as well) will restore sanity and peace to the world.

The Stockman's Income Tax

BY STEPHEN H. HART AND WILLIAM D. EMBREE, JR.,
ATTORNEYS, NATIONAL LIVE STOCK TAX COMMITTEE

IN A VERY SHORT TIME THE stockman will be called upon to mail his income tax return to the collector, not later than midnight of March 15, or suffer the consequences. This year's return will probably be for many stockmen one of the most significant they have ever filed. Depending upon his luck with weather, the stockman has this year made or lost a good deal of money. Ranchers and farmers should know how to take advantage of both these gains and losses in order that they may continue to make the important contribution which the livestock industry has made to this country's economic welfare. Generally speaking, it is fair to assume that the average stockman is familiar with the rules which control the taxation of his livestock. On the other hand, many of the livestock associations have suggested that it would not be amiss for us to publish an article containing a brief summary of the applicable laws, rules and regulations for interested stockmen to use as a double check.

Therefore, we have set forth below such a summary which is followed by a few comments with respect to possible changes in the taxation of livestock which may be brought about by litigation, the Bureau of Internal Revenue or Congress.

Method of Reporting

First of all, with respect to the taxpayer's method of reporting, stockmen, like other taxpayers, have the option to file their returns either on a cash or on an accrual basis. Once such option has been exercised by filing a return on one basis or the other, it cannot be changed without the permission of the commissioner of internal revenue. The cash basis for stockmen is interpreted with considerable flexibility. The stockman on a cash basis can charge to expense and deduct as a cost of raising livestock the feed and labor which go to increase their value. The stockman on a cash basis can deduct the cost of grain, cake, fertilizer and other supplies purchased and

paid for during the year, even though they are not used until a year later. Even a stockman, however, cannot deduct as an expense the cost of livestock purchased. Such purchase price must be held in a capital account and deducted from sales prices when the livestock are sold.

Theoretically, a livestock raiser can capitalize his breeding animals at cost and deduct after maturity a reasonable reserve for depreciation. As a practical matter many livestock producers prefer to include their breeding animals as well as those held for sale in inventory. A stockman on an inventory basis may elect one of several methods of valuing inventories. Theoretically he may inventory at "cost" or at "cost or market," whichever is lower. These standard methods, however, are inappropriate and difficult to apply in the case of most stockmen, particularly with raised animals whose cost is almost impossible to ascertain. Accordingly, the commissioner of internal revenue permits stockmen

Total Sheep
51,808
51,136
50,848
51,063
51,348
52,107
53,920
56,213
55,150
50,782
46,520
42,436
37,818
34,827
31,963

March, 1949

two other alternatives which are widely used: The "farm price" method permits him to value his inventory at market price less cost of transportation and selling. An inventory valued on this method would naturally fluctuate with the rise and fall of the market. In addition, ever since the income tax law was first adopted, many stockmen have valued their animals at a fixed constant price per head, with calves, say, at \$15; heifers \$30, and cows \$45; and in 1944, by virtue of T. D. 5423, the bureau recognized this method of inventorying, now called the unit livestock price method.

Capital Gains

One of the problems most difficult to supply on the stockman's return is the problem of capital gains on sales of breeding stock. Under the current rulings, I. T. 3666 and I. T. 3712 (applying, and interpreting the application of, I.R.C. Section 117 (j) of the Internal Revenue Code to livestock) the stockman's "breeding herd" is considered as if it were his factory, a capital asset, and the production of the "breeding herd" is treated as merchandise for sale. Therefore, when any part or all of the "breeding herd" is sold, the stockman is entitled to capital gains; whereas the income from sale of animals not in the "breeding herd" is taxed as ordinary income. The provisions of I. T. 3712, which defines a stockman's "breeding herd" for the purpose of the application of 117 (j), may be summarized briefly as follows:

In determining what constitutes the "breeding herd" there should be included (a) all females which normally would be bred during the taxable year; (b) all sires which normally would be used during the taxable year for breeding; (c) all ewe lambs or heifer yearlings held through the winter to be bred the following year; and (d) all heifer calves and ewe lambs which the operator can establish as normally retained for replacement of his breeding herd. There should be excluded from the "breeding herd" all steers and wethers, all young animals normally held for sale

(Continued on Page 25)



THE MARKETS



By H. W. FRENCH

Losses Have Been Terrific

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT slaughter steers and heifers at Chicago advanced \$2 to \$3 in the third week of February and yet are \$1.50 to \$5.50 lower than a month ago, you can say without contradiction that most of the time cattle owners did not have a very favorable market. Somewhat similar changes were recorded at most of the other markets.

Meanwhile beef cows declined \$1.50 to \$2 for the month although canners and cutters were not materially changed. Beef bulls were \$3 to \$4 lower but sausage kinds were only 50 cents to \$1 off. The calves and vealers lost \$1 to \$3 although supplies were rather moderate. In the case of fat steers and heifers, the decline was most severe on the high, good and choice and, with cows, the fatter they were the smaller the outlet. Likewise, fat bulls suffered most.

The cattle market was one of the wildest in months and at the low time owners were so downcast that it looked as though they had no friends left. Losses were terrific and they became so severe that it was necessary to shut off the run. It was common for cattle to show \$100 to \$150 loss per head and some as much as \$200 or more. When you saw cattle bring \$19.25 that cost \$28 as feeders last fall, it was easy to figure what the cattle feeder was up against.

As soon as the market took a turn for the better, the dressed beef trade improved but not until it had hit the lowest price level in months. Just before the middle of February choice steer carcass beef had dropped \$37 against \$67 at the high time last summer, but by February 18, this figure had risen to \$42.

There is no question that the meat demand is good, but there is a catch, and that is price. When wholesale beef costs went down and retailers suddenly reduced their prices sharply, people

swarmed to the meat counters and many retailers had to reorder far in excess of normal to meet the demand. I know of one neighborhood store which sold 18 tons of meat in two days and was still being swamped the next day.

Grainfeds Responsible

Many not familiar with the livestock industry blamed the storm for the recent sharp decline in live cattle, believing that such cattle were forced to market in a big way. As a matter of fact, up to Feb. 21, there were less than 50 loads received at Denver, the main market in the storm area. If you were on the market every day you could see that the break was caused chiefly by the steady stream of grain-fed steers and heifers, some markets reporting all-time high volume of such animals.

Government estimates placed the death loss up to Feb. 1 at 81,000 cattle and 97,000 sheep, or 2 per cent of the cattle and 5 per cent of the sheep in the belabored area, excluding Nevada and Utah. Further losses were admitted, as so many cattle were badly frozen but death did not come until long after the storms subsided. Some pitiful stories are being told. Many ewes lost their lambs and many cows slunked their calves, adding materially to the losses from the storms.

Good steers, many of them high in the grade, are making up the bulk of the steer supply but to date only a very light percentage fall in the choice and prime grade while common grade makes up even a smaller part of the supply. During the week ending Feb. 3 the average price of all grades of steers sold out of first hands at Chicago stood at \$22.69, or 71 cents less than a week earlier and \$5.33 less than a year ago. The figures for the following week are not available but it is certain that the average cost of beef steers would be the lowest since October, 1946.

The cattle owner was not the only one

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

DID THIS UNVACCINATED CALF DIE OF BLACKLEG OR MALIGNANT EDEMA?



This calf, as far as outward appearances go, could have died of either Blackleg or Malignant Edema. Symptoms are virtually identical. Blackleg and Malignant Edema are caused by closely related organisms, so it's practically impossible, without bacteriological examination, to tell which disease is causing losses. Further, recent investigations

prove that Malignant Edema is more widespread than formerly thought...that it now occurs in many areas formerly free of this infection.

Cutter's answer to this problem is: Blacklegol "S",* a fortified vaccine that builds peak immunity to both Blackleg and Malignant Edema in one 5 cc shot.

BLACKLEGOL "S" builds the same lifetime protection against Blackleg as famous Cutter Blacklegol—the vaccine, which since its introduction in 1934, has been the standard for measuring Blackleg immunity. And, at the same time, this single shot vaccine builds protective immunity to Malignant Edema.

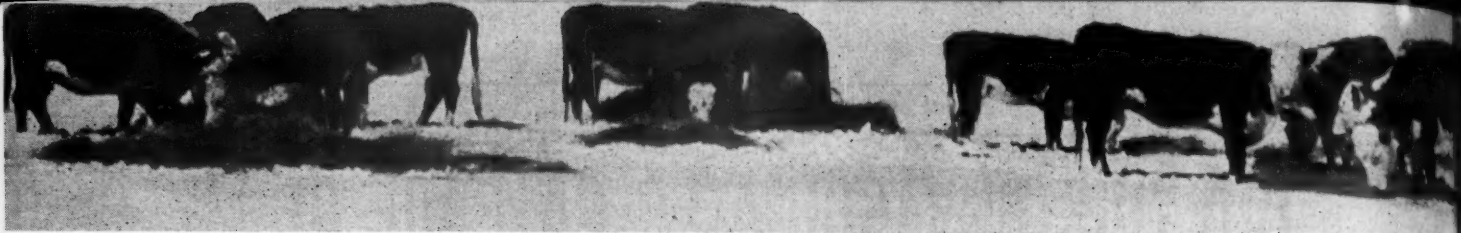
The surest way of preventing Black-

leg and Malignant Edema is to vaccinate with Blacklegol "S"—and the cost of protection against both diseases is only one half cent more per dose than that from the "single" vaccine. Order now for your spring vaccinating program. Your supplier of veterinary vaccines has it in stock.

CUTTER LABORATORIES
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having his troubles. The buyers as well as the sellers on the market were at a loss to account for some of the things which happened. Some sellers advised against marketing too heavily but it took the big final break to convince cattle owners that it was to their advantage to slacken the movement to market.

The sudden upward trend may be temporary although much will depend upon the size of the receipts. There were signs of softness at some markets on late days which may be an indication that the buying talent is getting weary after their wild scramble for cattle. Many will profit by the leveling off of the market, and some are hoping that prices will change little for the next few weeks. It is certain that the heavy marketing since the first of the year and during last December has cut into the potential supply.

Many months ago the experts were predicting improvement in the cattle market by March but until after the middle of February many of them were pushing the date of advances forward several months. There are more bulls than bears at the present time although some admit that in their opinion no big rise can come in the market until June or later.

Buying Power Still Strong

Unemployment figures are getting plenty of publicity but there still is plenty of buying power. The potential demand for meat is certainly greater than during the pre-war period. The decline in the number of replacement cattle purchased during January is a factor of some importance and must be considered as the present supply of fed cattle dwindles.

Eight cornbelt states reported an improvement of 93,681 stocker and feeder cattle and calves during January, around 9,000 less than a year earlier. The decrease for February undoubtedly will be even larger. On the other hand, 150,855 sheep and lambs went into these states during January, an increase of 70,000 from a year ago. Ohio and Iowa were the only states showing an increase in cattle, but each of the eight states showed an increase in sheep with the big gains in Indiana and Minnesota.

Average price of stocker and feeder steers at Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Paul for the week ending Feb. 3 figured \$21, off 53 cents from the previous week and \$3.77 under a year ago. Despite the most urgent demand for light yearlings and calves, the composite average weight of feeder purchases at these four markets was 796 pounds against 761 pounds a year ago.

While most of those connected with

the livestock industry know that the "storm" cattle had little if any influence on the current fat cattle market they do know that it will influence the stocker cattle market in the spring. Many prospective buyers may be faced with a shortage and may seek other areas not affected by the January blizzards. Late reports indicate that light yearling steers in Texas are being held at \$24 to \$25 per cwt.

Both slaughter and feeder cattle are considerably below a year ago, and with the recent sharp advance in fat cattle it is only natural to expect feeder cattle to work higher as confidence is regained. With feeder cattle below a year ago and the price of corn sharply down, feedlot operators will not need prices of late last year to make a profit. They are after a margin and do not care whether it is selling \$40 cattle or \$25 cattle.

Most of the cattle available at the various markets suitable for country purposes are carrying too much flesh and weight to suit most prospective buyers, but let some good to choice calves or light yearling steers show up and they are immediately snapped up. This is not an unusual condition, however, as with the approach of the grass season there is always a broad outlet for thin cattle.

Hogs

Hog receipts have been fairly liberal at most markets and weights have been excessive, the biggest demand for butchers being for those much below 240 pounds. Anything from 300 pounds sells at a very big discount. The market continued to fluctuate and within a few days the market often changed more than a dollar, sometimes more than two dollars.

On the low spot nothing at Chicago passed \$20, the lowest price since October, 1946. From then on the market reacted and many barrows and gilts under 260 pounds sold at \$21 to \$21.50, while on the high day best soared to \$22.25, or as high as anything sold thus far this year. Lighter receipts are due in March and a rise in prices is predicted.

Compared with a month ago butchers from 220 pounds down were steady to 25 cents lower, but those with more weight were 25 to 50 cents higher, sows showing 50-75 cents advance. This difference is due partly to the unusually low level of the big hogs a month ago. Sows were worth \$18 to \$18.75 a good part of the time although on the low spot very few passed \$17.

Sheep and Lambs

Conditions continued to improve in the feeding areas of California and Arizona although most lambs are far behind a year ago. Buyers are showing more interest and in the Imperial Valley fat

lambs were selling chiefly at \$24. There were about 28,000 head moved up to Feb. 21. Rain and warm weather is needed in the San Joaquin Valley where earlier the frost killed most of the alfalfa pastures. Some spring lambs reached \$24.50 and others went down to \$22. Trading for future delivery and immediate needs has hardly developed in the Sacramento Valley. It is also estimated that about 20,000 cattle remain in the feedlots in Imperial Valley, a reduction of 50 per cent since Jan. 1.

Other Years Other Storms

A. J. Mokler, a pioneer Natrona County (Wyo.) editor, recently wrote in a Casper Tribune-Herald story that "Cattle and sheep raising on the western range has always been a gamble, with the trump cards nearly always in the hands of the elements." He went on to recall some of the blizzards of the early days in that section, starting with the terrible winter of 1885-86, when everybody prayed for "one of our accustomed chinook winds," to no avail. As a result of the storms and the conditions which followed, some of the mightiest cattlemen of the time went into receivership, and the season went down in history as "Wyoming's greatest catastrophe in the stock business."

In the first week of February, 1891, the county was visited by the hardest storm and coldest weather then on record—40 degrees below zero, and winds which piled snow so high that Casper, Glenrock and Douglas were without train service for a week; dealers were out of coal and running very short on the staple necessities, and stock losses on the range were "appalling."

Another heavy storm took place in March, 1894, when drifts were as deep as 12 feet in places and telegraph wires were down throughout the area. This severe storm was followed by another just a year later which brought extreme hardship and death to man and beast. During the last week in March, 1897, a terrific windstorm preceded the "annual blizzard," serving to forewarn people in its path. The snow which followed fell without interruption for five days.

The storm record continues through ensuing years, with peak blizzards in 1907, 1909-10, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1922. As one who lived through that period, Mr. Mokler is well qualified to tell a dramatic story of the weatherman's activities in a part of the country where the weather is a factor that often determines the success or failure of one of the great industries.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Association Notes

Presiding at a meeting of the Pinal County Cattlemen's Association at Oracle Junction, Ariz., was Ellis Mercer, formerly president of the American National junior group. He invited the San Pima Cattle Growers' Association to merge with the Pinal County group and the vote favored such action. Virgil Mercer was elected to head the Pinal group.

Executive Secretary Mollin has been in Washington for several weeks, but he took time out to attend the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Association meeting at Richmond on Feb. 14. He spoke to the Virginia stockmen on national cattle subjects. President A. W. Buhrman presided over the sessions and introduced a group of speakers who discussed various merchandising, feeding and research activities of that part of the country. John C. Milton of Chicago, manager of the sales-service division of the meat educational program for the American Meat Institute, covered developments and improvements in the packing industry.

FLORIDA REPORTING . . . Burton Walker has been re-elected to his fifth term as president of the Hillsborough

County Cattlemen's Association. . . . Articles of incorporation have been approved for the Gulf Coast Livestock Improvement Association and the organization will soon apply for a charter. . . . Mayor Leo E. Fugle of Ocala has been elected head of the Volusia County Cattlemen's Association. . . . Close to 100 members and their families enjoyed a recent gathering of the Hardee County Cattlemen at the Ona Experiment Station. . . . Cecil W. Perry of Oxford has been named president of the Sumter County Cattlemen's Association.

County Cattlemen's Association . . . Hackney R. Simpson of Zephyrhills has been elected head of the Pasco County Cattlemen's Association for 1949. J. F. Higgins of Dade City is secretary-treasurer.

The 1950 convention of the American National, to be held early next January at Miami, Fla., will be the first one ever held east of the Mississippi River.

Around 3,000 ranchers from New Mexico and bordering states are expected to attend the 35th annual convention of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association in Albuquerque, Mar. 28-29, according to President G. W. Evans of Magdalena. State and national legislation, freight rate problems, cattle theft and a depressed livestock market are given as some of the probable reasons for es-



RECEIVES STUDENT CLUB HONOR

Miss Jane Kinder of Seattle (left) presents H. R. Merman, head cattle buyer for Armour & Co., Spokane, Wash., with a Lariat Club key and honorary membership in the club, at the annual student-breeder banquet, Feb. 3 at Pullman. Mrs. Merman looks on (center.) The Lariat Club is the animal husbandry student club at Washington State College.

pecially high interest in the coming convention, at which American National President A. A. Smith of Sterling, Colo., and Frank Boice of Sonoita, Ariz., chairman of the National Live Stock Tax Committee, have already accepted invitations to speak.

Heated debates between the cattlemen

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Feed Purina Range Breeder Checkers...

Especially made to Build Up Cows Fast!

They do a better conditioning job than any single-protein feed because they're . . .

- HIGH IN VITAMIN A (aids reproduction and milk flow)
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Make that water wallow

IT doesn't take a "gully-washer" or a "goose drownder" to rob you of your precious topsoil. Bare land, up-and-down-hill row crops, and over-grazed range all invite rain to escape without working for you—and to erode your topsoil away. But sod or cover crops act like a blotter to absorb and hold the growth-giving water. Slopes and hillsides tilled on the contour, with alternating strips of crop-land and grass, save maximum amounts of water, hold erosion to a minimum. Flatter fields may be subsurface-tilled to keep the protective rain-absorbing trash on top. Correct rotations of crops, which include plow-under crops, will help absorb and hold moisture.

You need *lots* of water. *It takes about 200 barrels of water to grow one bushel of corn.* That's around 625,000 gallons for every 100 bushels. And most other growing plants also require large amounts of moisture... You can't control the amount of rainfall you get. But you *can* conserve it, so that every drop does the best possible job of making grass or crops for you.

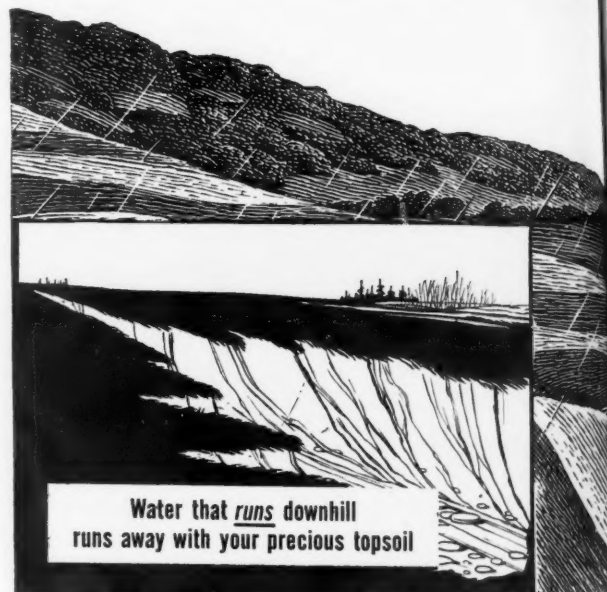
As farmers and ranchers in every state well know, water has a "split personality."

It can be your ally, or a devastating foe. Lashing rains can erode away inches of fertile topsoil in a short time. But it takes nature 300 to 1,000 years to rebuild each lost inch. That's why the control of water is so important in a good land management program. Considerable progress in erosion control has been made in the past ten years. But we've still got a long way to go! Hundreds of millions of productive acres are endangered by erosion and gulying. They're washing away! Only good land management can save our soil and keep America strong. *It will pay you—and all of us—to make that water walk downhill.*

OUR CITY COUSIN



"See the lambs gambol!" City Cousin turns pale,
For back in his city they put gamblers in jail!



Water that runs downhill
runs away with your precious topsoil



A System that Works!

I get riled up when I hear talk of changing our system of government, or our system of doing business, here in America. Sure, there's always room for improvement. But you can improve a house without wrecking the building! Any system that produces worthwhile results must be a pretty good one. I think our way of doing things has worked out mighty well for Americans.

Here we are—about 6% of the world's population, living on less than 6% of the world's land. Yet, through what I like to call our "three I's"—Initiative, Ingenuity and Industry—we have created the American way of life. We enjoy greater freedoms than the other 94% of the world's people. We have educational opportunities for all... schools, colleges, universities, libraries. And 48% of the world's radios. As just one measure of personal comfort and convenience, we have 92% of the world's bathtubs. We have a motor vehicle for every four people. And more than 286,000 miles of paved roads for them to run on.

Most important of all, thanks to your system of agricultural production, we have plenty of food for all of us—and enough to help feed our less fortunate neighbors. Yes, I think it's worth getting riled up in favor of the American System now and again.

F.M. Simpson.

Agricultural Research Dept.

Swift & Company UNION STOCK YARDS
CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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CK YARDS
ILLINOIS

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Growth

As every boy and girl should know,
Big oaks from little acorns grow.
And that's the way with business, too.
Your growth depends on the job you do.

Gustavus Swift, away back when,
Slaughtered a heifer, and he then
Peddled the meat, also the hide.
Got back the cost . . .

a small profit beside!

From that small start in this big land
Swift kept pace with the job at hand.
As the job grew bigger, Swift grew, too.
Yes, growth depends on the job you do!

Martha Logan's Recipe for

BEEF PLATE WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE

(Yield: 3 to 4 Servings)
2 pounds beef plate floured
2 tablespoons shortening
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup sliced onions
1/2 cup chopped celery
or celery leaves
1 1/2 cups water

Put meat into serving pieces and dip in flour. Melt shortening in heavy kettle. Brown meat well on both sides. Add salt, onions, celery, and water. Cover and cook 3 hours. Serve with Horseradish Sauce.

HORSERADISH SAUCE—Melt 2 tbsp. butter or margarine in a saucepan, blend in 2 tbsp. flour, mixing well. Slowly add cup milk, stirring until well mixed, and thick and smooth. Add 1 tsp. salt, 3 tbsp. lemon juice, 1 tbsp. sugar, 2/3 cup horseradish. Cook over low heat until thoroughly heated.

New Grass Varieties

by Wilkie Collins, Jr.
Soil Conservation Service
Lincoln, Nebraska



Wilkie Collins, Jr.

Good pasture is the key to production of more meat, milk and wool, at lower cost. In addition, a good cover of grass protects your soil against wind and water erosion. When you have improved pasture, or range, good livestock and a sound conservation program, you have a profitable combination.

Many new grasses have been developed in recent years. Several of these promise to become real money-makers for livestock men. They outyield old grasses, give a longer grazing season, and provide better soil protection.

1. Smooth Brome—The Lincoln, Auchenbach and Fisher strains give higher yields, are easier established and withstand summer heat and drought better in the central, eastern and southern brome areas.

2. Intermediate Wheatgrass—A high-yielding, sod-forming cool-season grass that is easier to establish than most varieties. It is highly palatable and does exceptionally well in the central and northern plains and western mountain area.

3. Sand Lovegrass—Highly palatable, especially well adapted to sandy soils.

4. Tall Wheatgrass—A high-yield cool-season bunchgrass that does better than other grasses under alkaline conditions.

5. Ky-31 Fescue—High-yielding, supplies longer grazing, especially good for southern and southeastern states.

6. Russian Wild Rye, Blackwell Strain of Switchgrass, Hays Buffalo Grass, Yellow Bluestem and Sweet Sudan are other new or improved grasses for adapted areas.

Grasses usually give higher yields and better quality forage when grown in association with an adapted legume.

• NUTRITION IS OUR BUSINESS — AND YOURS •

Right Eating Adds Life to Your Years — and Years to Your Life

March, 1949

and representatives of the Washington state game commission and the Elk Protective Association featured the fourth annual meeting of the Central Washington Cattlemen's Association at Toppenish. Around 120 cattlemen were there to uphold their end of the argument.

In the worst winter on record in the state, many big elk have invaded Yakima Valley ranches, farms and orchards in quest of food. Game officials cited their efforts to herd the animals into the nearby Oak Creek Game Reserve by use of a helicopter, but the cattlemen were dubious of the lasting result of this expedient.

State Association President Walter Schrock of Okanogan told the group that northwestern stock leaders have given their support to possible location in the San Juan Islands (Pudget Sound) of a \$70,000 federal experiment station on animal diseases.

Members passed resolutions endorsing a brand bill before the state legislature and supporting the association's efforts to prevent higher freight rates on cattle shipments.

New officers, elected at the meeting, are Ernest Myers of Outlook, president, succeeding Byron Vance; Clarence McBride of Bickleton, vice-president; Irving Newhouse of Mabton, secretary-treasurer. Directors: Mark White, Cowiche; A. W. Donaho, Bickleton; Lester Pearne, White Swan.—Gibb Clark.

MISSISSIPPI GROUP JOINS NATIONAL

THE third annual meeting of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, held at Jackson last month, pointed up the growing importance of the cattle industry in the state. Elected to office for the coming year were Walter Swoope of Columbus, president, to succeed Charles S. Whittington of Greenwood; P. F. Simpson of Flora, Harold Council of Greenville, M. P. Moore of Senatobia and A. B. Freeman of Walls, vice-presidents;

Paul F. Newell, State College, secretary (re-election).

F. E. Mollin of Denver, executive secretary of the American National, was present to describe the activities of his association (which the Mississippians later in the sessions voted to join). C. A. Burmeister of the Production and Marketing Administration, Washington, discussed prices, supplies and trends. Other speakers included Ray H. Means, superintendent of the Brown Loam Experiment Station, which the group visited at the conclusion of the two-day meeting; L. I. Jones, director of the extension service, State College; Dr. T. K. Jones of the BAI at Jackson; Paul C. Smith, vice-president of Swift & Company, and Paul Thompson, Indiana cattle feeder.

The program was rounded out by committee reports and the adoption of recommendations with respect to cattle health and sale facility inspections.

The association voted to become a member of the American National.

Alan Rogers Addresses Packers

Alan Rogers of Ellensburg, Wash., chairman of the American National's public relations committee, was one of the speakers before the nearly 1,000 persons who recently attended the third annual meeting of the Western States Meat Packers Association at San Francisco.

He traced the development and importance of the work being done by the committee and outlined some of its activities since its formation, describing also phases under consideration or in preparation, such as a booklet, "Meat on the Nation's Table," soon to be distributed, and a color movie which may be made for showing to school children and civic groups to inform them of the whole story of meat production. "The public," he said, "does not comprehend all that is involved in putting meat on the table. There is no magic wand which can be waved to produce more meat and cheaper meat." Another thing emphasized as highly essential by the speaker was the immediate need for publicizing what the livestock industry means, economically, to the western states.

This quartet was snapped between sessions of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association convention at Jackson, in late January. It consists of (left to right) Hubert A. Anderson, West, Miss.; F. E. Mollin, the American National executive secretary from Denver; C. D. Maddow, West, Miss., and Ernest Grissom, assistant extension animal husbandman, State College, Miss.



DISCUSS REAPPRAISAL

A good crowd was on hand when the Feb. 16 convention of the Northern New Mexico Livestock Association took place at Roy. Elected to head the group for the coming year was T. J. Heimann of Mosquero. He succeeds Howard McDaniels of Cimarron. Dan Gillespie of Springer is the vice-president; W. F. Pittard of Raton, secretary, and Alvin Stockton of Raton, the treasurer.

The meeting featured an executive committee session in the morning, a luncheon meeting with the Roy Lions Club, and a full business assembly in the afternoon.

The re-appraisal program now under way in New Mexico provided the principal topic of discussion; close behind it in claiming the interest of the members was the matter of proposed laws now before the New Mexico legislature.

Convention speakers included G. W. Evans of Magdalena, president of the New Mexico Cattlemen's Association; E. G. Hayward of Cimarron, a former president of that organization and presently a member of the American National's public relations committee; Bud Williams of Clovis, vice-president of the state organization; Ivan Watson, extension animal husbandman at the University of New Mexico; Grayson Bell, representing the Roy Game Protective Association, and Radford Hall of Denver, Colo., assistant secretary of the American National.

Headway on Rodents

At the annual meeting of the Gilpin-Jefferson Livestock Association, held Feb. 5 at Golden, members discussed at length a rodent campaign that had been put on in the two counties. All officers were re-elected: R. A. Crowell, president; Kenneth L. Green, vice-president; Geo. E. White, secretary-treasurer. (All of these men are from Golden.) On the forestry board are Paul R. White, Sr., and John Pearce, alternate; on the advisory board, Wm. Allgood, John Pearce and Paul R. White, Sr. New members were Geo. Booth, Edw. Greenblatt and Paul R. White, Jr.

Talks were made by Ford Daugherty of Colorado A. & M. College, on bull grading; David O. Appleton, editor of the PRODUCER, who spoke on vaccination for foot-and-mouth disease and reviewed American National policy as expressed at North Platte; Dr. B. F. Davis, secretary of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, who spoke on Bang's disease and Colorado legislation; Stanley Stolte, Jefferson County extension agent, whose subject was eradication of the Wyoming ground squirrels and prairie dogs; Leavitt Booth of Arvada, who discussed the American National's January convention. The Roosevelt National Forest was represented by Wm. Beckley, and the Arapahoe Forest by William Fay, new supervisor introduced at the meeting, and Howard Lee.—Geo. E. White, Secretary - treasurer, Gilpin - Jefferson Livestock Association.

Seek New Land Fee Basis

IN consideration of the straight 3-cents-per-acre fee which is now charged for state-owned grazing land in Arizona, regardless of its carrying capacity, the members of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association last month at Nogales voted to support a proposal now before the state legislature. Under this, land would be classified according to its worth, and the fees for using it would range from 1½ to 7½ cents an acre, dependent upon the rising or falling prices of cattle.

This was just one of the actions taken by the cattlemen at their 45th annual convention, which was very well attended. The Arizonans enthusiastically participated in all phases of the meeting. Other resolutions they adopted approved the United States-Mexican foot-and-mouth program, while asking Mexican officials to offer better protection for personnel engaged in the control work; asked for full reimbursement from railroads for livestock lost in transit, for better grasshopper control methods and that forest grazing land transfer cuts be discontinued. They requested that all unallocated grazing fees be used for range improvement; that grazing lands condemned by the War Department be released; that no new livestock freight rate increases be permitted.

American National President A. A. Smith, a featured speaker, stated that the American cattleman must now compete with importations of cattle and meat from Canada and Argentine canned meat . . . He urged more efficient, more economical federal government operation. A former American National president, Albert K. Mitchell of Albert, N. M., who is chairman of the national advisory committee on foot-and-mouth disease,



American National President A. A. Smith of Sterling, Colo. (at left) with Carlos Ronstadt, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, before whose convention Mr. Smith appeared as a speaker last month in Nogales.

reviewed the vaccination procedure now in use. Other speakers included Dr. Paul S. Burgess, dean of the college of agriculture of the University; G. E. Glendening of the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station at Tucson.

Incumbent officers were re-elected unanimously: Carlos Ronstadt, Tucson, president; John Babbitt, Flagstaff, first vice-president; Ralph Cowan, Douglas, second vice-president; Robert Perkins, Prescott, secretary; Mrs. J. M. Keith, secretary.

At the conclusion of the convention many of the delegates went into Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, for a tour of a packing plant there and an informal meeting with some 300 members of the Sonora Cattlemen's Association.

CROP SYSTEM CHANGE URGED

"Wise land use and land capabilities" are recommended as the base for crop production quotas, as opposed to present USDA practices which base such quotas on past agricultural records for any given district. The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, at its third annual meeting in Denver in mid-February, made this the subject of a major resolution adopted there, the association's plan in this respect being to let actual yield of the soil determine production—as to both amount and kind.

The members also asked in their resolutions for increased financial aid for soil conservation districts by state legislatures; better farmer-rancher repre-

sentation on soil conservation boards; a single soil conservation agency in the USDA, and more attention to the subject of conservation in schools, etc.

Kent Leavitt of Millbrook, N. Y., heads the association.

Woolmen Elect Vaughn

A former president of the California Wool Growers Association, Howard Vaughn of Dixon, is the new president of the National Wool Growers Association. He succeeds Sylvan J. Pauly of Deer Lodge, Mont. Other officers named at the organization's 81st annual convention in San Antonio, Tex., are: Art Bohosky of Yakima, Wash., vice-president and (re-elected) T. C. Bacon, Twin Falls, Ida.; Harry J. Devereaux, Rapid City, S. D.; Ray W. Willoughby, San Angelo, Tex.; John A. Reed, Kemmerer, Wyo., also vice-presidents. J. M. "Casey" Jones of Salt Lake City, Utah, is secretary.

A major resolution dealt with the plight of stockmen affected by recent blizzards in the West; an appeal was made to Congress to provide disaster loans through the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation. Other resolutions endorsed the Mexican foot-and-mouth campaign, opposed "infringement of states' rights by proposed valley authorities" and opposed also the acquisition of more land by government agencies while recommending the return of former army posts and other federal lands to private ownership.

'National' Coverage Grows

Three new associations have been welcomed into the membership of the American National. They are: The Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, the Malheur County (Ore.) Cattle and Horse Raisers Association and the Northwest Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

Officers of the Mississippi organization are Walter Swoope, Columbus, president; P. F. Simpson of Flora, Harold Council of Greenville, M. P. Moore of Senatobia and A. B. Freeman of Walls, vice-president; Paul F. Newell, State College, secretary. Malheur officers are W. W. Scott, Willowcreek, president; Carroll Locey, Ironside, vice-president; Art J. Seale, Jordan Valley, secretary-treasurer; George W. Bain, Vale, assistant secretary . . . Northwest Oklahoma officers are Charles E. Gardner, Alva, president; Ralph Barby, Beaver, vice-president; Leland Ross, Woodward, secretary.

Further protests were registered against existing export controls on fats and oils, and either actual or "stand-by" price controls. Requested were more favorable rail rates for long-haul shippers; congressional action on any proposed reciprocal trade agreements; legislation compelling payment by railroads of the full amount of loss on livestock killed or injured in transit; improvements in Forest Service operation of lands leased for grazing; abolition of federal taxes on communications, transport and travel.

Testifies on Trade Extension

APPEARING before the Senate Finance Committee in Washington on Feb. 18, F. E. Mollin, the National's executive secretary, testified at hearings on the extension of the Reciprocal Trade Act. He pointed to a resolution adopted by the 52nd annual convention at North Platte, wherein the association urged the Congress, "if it extends the act, to clothe the United States Tariff

Commission with the power needed to protect agriculture from a flood of imports that would prevent stability in operations of domestic producers." He called it . . . sound . . . for our national economy to have a tariff policy that would protect the producers of this country when domestic supplies are heavy and prices depressed and, conversely, would protect the consumers when supplies are light and prices relatively high—and in his statement declared that "We have felt that (the act) has not been administered in a fashion which would help protect the economy of this country in the manner referred to."

Mr. Mollin explained, further, that "we are just approaching the first real test of the Reciprocal Trade Act." Following the unusual conditions of the war and post-war periods, world shortages are only now turning into world surpluses—under which conditions it seems more important than ever that there should be some check upon the Executive authority to make trade agreements—a check embodied in an agency of the government empowered to keep in constant touch with the international trade situation and to be able to function quickly to grant relief to industries which are threatened with serious economic loss because of a continued flow of competitive imports.

The secretary's testimony touched on imports, such as canned beef, affecting the livestock industry of this country. (During the year 1948 this exceeded 129,000,000 pounds—far the heaviest importation of such products in our history.) He brought in also the matter of imports of beef, veal and cattle from Canada, following the lifting of the Canadian ban against exports to the United States on Aug. 16, 1948. (From that date until the end of the year, such dressed meat imports were equal to 180,000 head, while live-animal imports during that period came to 214,380 head of beef cattle and 23,869 calves. (These figures are exclusive of dairy cattle or purebreds intended for breeding purposes.)

"There are many signs," said Mr. Mollin, "that we are approaching a critical period in the economy of this country . . . We believe a grave responsibility rests upon the Congress of the United States today to take such action as will adequately protect American industry, labor and agriculture, and we urge that this be your first consideration in framing the extension act . . . We strongly urge that the restrictive provision on the Executive authority contained in the present act be continued and made stronger."

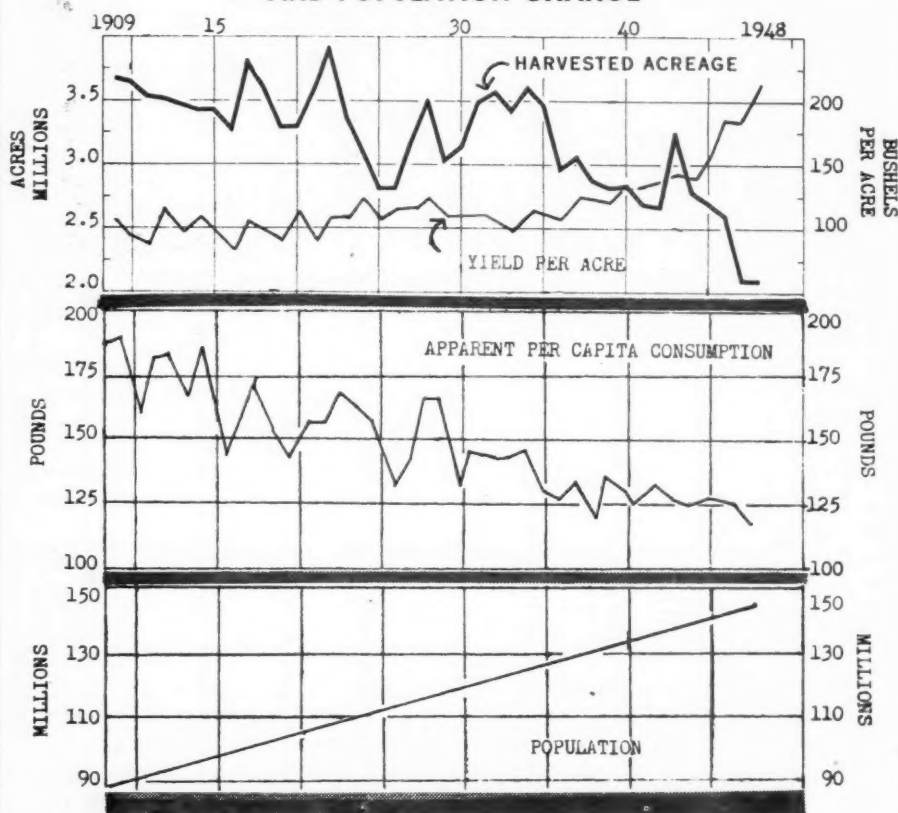
250 BRAHMA BREEDERS

The 1949 Brahman Breeders Directory, published at Kissimmee, now lists 250 owners of purebreds, as compared with 51 in 1943.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Forty Years of Potato History—1909-48

ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD PER ACRE, PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AND POPULATION CHANGE



SOURCE: USDA and U.S. Census

These charts from the National Association of Food Chains show the effect of government support and planning in potatoes. At the top is seen a crossing of the acreage and yield lines—as acreage decreased, yield increased. Next is shown the steady reduction in per capita consumption, due in part, at least, to the high level of support prices.

This year, while substantially lower, the support price is still at a level that means profit, and the chances are good that overproduction will again cost a lot of money. The 1948 potato program cost \$150,000,000.

Effect of Storms Estimated

AS an aftermath of the storms, the Soil Conservation Service sees "sufficient water supplies for practically all parts of the West and prospects for damaging spring highwater flow in the Northwest and parts of the Rocky Mountain states." This is based on Feb. 1 snow surveys. As of the same date the Department of Agriculture estimated that 81,000 cattle and calves and 97,000 sheep and lambs had perished in the storms in South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colo-

rado, with additional losses expected and heavy shrinkage in weight. The direct loss would be about 2 per cent of the cattle and calves on hand and a little over 5 per cent of the stock sheep.

Reports from other sections, principally Utah, Nevada and parts of the Western Slope of Colorado and southwestern Wyoming indicated that losses up to Feb. 1 were not large, although heavy shrinkage had occurred and many animals were in poor condition.

SOME ASPECTS OF OUR AMBITIOUS FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Talk by Forrest E. Cooper, Counsel,
Interstate Ass'n of Public Land
Counties, at American Nat'l Meeting

MY REMARKS today revolve around that 20 per cent of the area of the 48 states, the title to which is vested in the federal government.

I am not going to bombard you with statistics. I will use round numbers and but few of them in placing this subject before you.

At one time it was the policy of the federal government to offer its acreage for sale and to homesteaders. Practically all transfers of title to you citizens stopped in the year 1934.

Commencing with the year 1911, the federal government commenced to buy back acreage which had once been in private ownership. One agency has purchased 17,000,000 acres. In some states east of the Mississippi, like Michigan, this repurchased area now exceeds 2,500,000 acres. These purchases, of one kind or another, now extend into about 650 counties scattered throughout the 48 states. To this inventory should be added the properties forfeited to us by aliens as a result of our last two wars. These forfeitures are responsible for the keen interest in the federal real estate inventory of the state of New Jersey.

Here in the 11 western states the federal government now owns about 50 per cent of the surface area—one acre in two. Within recent years the percentage of federal ownership in California has jumped from 39 per cent of the entire area of the state to 47 per cent. In Colorado the government now owns 38 per cent of the state compared with 33 per cent some 10 years ago. Out in California which is bursting at its seams with about 10,000,000 people there is an interesting race for property going on between the new settlers and the federal government. The citizens have but dollars to offer. The federal government now has such a monopoly on the natural resources of the West that it can outbid the settler by offering natural resources instead of cash and thus swell the sum total of federal acreage.

LET us list some of the aspects of this ambitious land retention and land acquisition program:

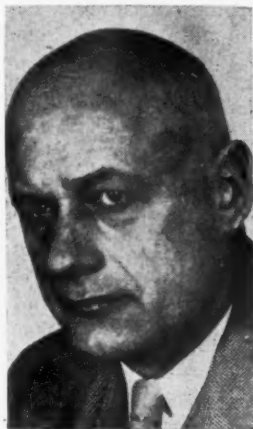
1. The power to withhold a vast acreage from a fair rate of taxation or in a tax exempt status within a county or group of counties will destroy local government just as surely as the power to levy a direct tax without limitation.

2. Every acquisition of additional real estate by the federal government theoretically increases the responsibility of the bureau to which it is assigned, hence there exists a prima facie justification for increasing the bureau's budget. Public lands consume taxes; private lands produce taxes. Here is where the large eastern federal taxpayers come into the picture. They not only furnish to a great extent the consideration for the purchase but they also shoulder the cost of the increased operating budget. Ever remember that the salary of every federal executive depends upon the number of people he has working under him. More acres mean more subordinates in Washington and in the regional and field offices throughout the nation, so the federal payroll grows along with the acreage. In 1940 the bureaucrats swapped some of our western railroads a higher freight rate on federal shipments in exchange for the title to 8,000,000 acres of land. About 2,000,000 acres in Arizona, for example, passed under the dead hand of the Indian Bureau, the Park Service and other agencies and out of the production of livestock. It would be an interesting research project to follow through on that deal and see what effect it is having on our western economy—to see how many more federal employees the railroads are supporting and to compute how much more property taxes they are paying on the property they have left and how much less local freight business there is to be had.

3. Most peacetime acquisitions are initiated through public enthusiasm or hysteria which are nourished by a constant stream of propaganda from the federal bureaus which hope to thereby extend their jurisdiction. These propaganda bureaus are also costing federal taxpayers a lot of money.

4. All federal land acquisitions are presumed to be in the public interest. The citizens residing upon or near the desired acreage should be given a chance to express their opinions on that question for they are as much a part of the body politic as those who live far away. As a matter of fact, all such decisions are made in Washington, D. C., and to date they have all been in favor of the federal government. The citizen who attempts to speak up or to get someone to speak for him is immediately tagged as a public enemy.

ONCE upon a time 50 per cent of the surface of England eventually passed from private ownership under the dead hand of a combined political and religious bureaucracy of such power that in 1271 the English Parliament rebelled and enacted the Statute of Mort Main—the statute of the dead hand. The dead hand of public ownership was lifted forever and England went forward to meet her destiny. Our English cousins well remember their lesson of 700 years ago. If this were England even your right to convey private property to assist a worthy undertaking like the Red Cross would be conditioned upon your ability to obtain the consent of local government. The legislature of Nevada, spurred on by its county officials, has legislated upon this problem just about as far as possible at the state level. Perhaps its restrictive legislation reaches out into a legal no man's land but a clash between state government, as spokesman for your school district and county government, and the federal government, is inevitable. The sooner it comes the better. There is no use in anteing our acres away. This issue must be faced at once in every state if the com-



Forrest E. Cooper



At the Arizona meeting. Left to right, R. E. Perkins, treasurer; Ralph Cowan, second vice-president; John Babbitt, first vice-president.

pact embodied in the federal constitution is to be honored.

6. The Congress should forbid acquisitions for a period of five years except for certain emergencies, so that we can fully examine our existing federal real estate inventory. The sum total of present federal tax payments is large. Our

The Outlook

— FROM USDA REPORTS —

● Spending for European recovery and other foreign aid in 1949 is expected to be larger than last year. This is likely to continue to provide an important outlet for our larger supplies of export farm products.

● Government spending generally is at a high level and is an important force in maintaining economic activity.

● Demand for meat has declined from the unusually high level of last summer and is now about the same as in late 1947. A seasonal decline in meat production is likely. If demand holds at the January level, higher prices for hogs and lower grades of cattle is probable. Prices of better grade cattle may hold fairly steady.

● Feed grain prices are expected to continue to register seasonal gains for a few months but will continue well below a year earlier.

inventory should be reviewed and much property disposed of, thereby cutting down the annual outlay for taxes. Furthermore, during the war the federal government removed much valuable urban real estate from the tax rolls by buying large hotels and office buildings for the armed services, a group of bureaus upon whose property no taxes are paid. If these properties, which were needed for a temporary wartime purpose, had been leased, they would have stayed on the tax rolls. San Francisco and other large cities were seriously hit by this practice. While there is keen interest in this subject here in the rural areas of the West, please do not forget that the federal tax exempt property that you can readily see from the top of the Empire State Building or from the roof of the county courthouse in Los Angeles is worth three times the assessed value of the entire state of Wyoming and the value of both parcels exceeds the assessed valuation of the state of Colorado.

7. The Congress should condition all acquisitions on state consent, thereby bringing our federal statutes into harmony with our federal constitution. The first land acquisition statutes recognized state sovereignty but state rights were soon lost in the scramble. Recognition once again by the congress of state rights by conditioning future acquisitions on state consent and by tying appropriations to state consent would bring this land acquisition program and the consequent impairment of the tax

structure of local government, and the impairment of our national economy, to a walk and eventually to a stop.

8. There are some who contend that state and local government ought not to interfere with these transactions. Let us analyze his viewpoint. (1) The founders of our national government reserved to the states and units of local government the taxation of real estate as their main source of revenue and authorized tariffs and excise taxes as well as the use of the proceeds of the sale of public lands to finance the new national government. They did not foresee the impairment of the tax base of the former by an ambitious land acquisition program by the latter. If this buying is to continue until the local tax base is destroyed then let us call another constitutional convention and start over again. The convening of such a convention is unlikely but the erosion of the tax base of your school district, your county, your road district and your state government still continues. (2) when you sell your ranch to your neighbor, that is your business, but when you try to sell it to my government, that is my business. Whenever the public purse pays the price the public is, and of a right ought to be, interested. It should not only be interested in such a proposal but in gauging the consequences of your proposed land sale to the government when added to the sum total of all such deals theretofore made.

9. The state of New Mexico ranks second amongst the 48 states in the per cent of revenue received by units of local government in the form of state grants in aid. No doubt the vast tax exempt acreage owned by the federal government is a contributing factor in this picture. The ad valorem tax base of local government in New Mexico is rapidly eroding away because of past and current federal purchases. For example, the Indian Bureau, according to the figures compiled by the Taxpayer's Association of New Mexico, has recently added about 1,000,000 acres of the best range and bottom land in the state to the acreage already under the palm of its dead hand. Other acquisitions are currently attracting the attention of the populace. The tragedy in New Mexico, as in other states I could mention, is a double barreled one, because these federal acquisitions of deeded lands are drying up the springs of state revenue as well.

Buying With Land

10. The Congress should put a stop to the sale of our natural resources in exchange for deeds to private property. This practice of using property instead of dollars with which to obtain acreage circumvents the Bureau of the Budget and the congressional appropriations committee. About 10,000,000 acres of land, 1,000,000 in California and 1,000,000 in Oregon have already been purchased in this manner.

11. There is another type of protection that is needed and that is federal legislation which will curb the power of the President to transfer federal acreage from one department to the other by executive order. In the case of the Jackson Hole National Monument we observe that not only the natural resources of a large tract of federal property have been withdrawn from the production of wealth by and through the grazing of stock thereon but the power of the President to throw exterior boundaries of federal reservations, on paper, around vast areas of private property, like a cowboy lassoing a cow, which private property immediately is placed at the mercy of the land hungry federal bureau in question, should be stopped. Such decisions should be reserved to the Congress and to the states. The universal crop of the West is grass, and the universal business of the 11 western states is that of raising livestock. Three types of grass land figure prominently in the annual life of a stock animal: the valley ranch where hay is raised for

EXPLAINS ADVANTAGES OF GROUP ACTIVITY

"It takes group action to get results," says a leaflet now being distributed by the public relations committee of the American National. Inside is a quick view at some of the unfavorable headlines and news stories which were being printed one year ago, and some examples of the kind of publicity the livestock industry is receiving today. Local, state and national livestock associations are described as "the watchdogs of your interests," and the recipient is urged to bring in new members. The folder comes from Advisor F. H. Sinclair's office at Sheridan, Wyo.

Also being sent out, to editors of publications, is a clip sheet containing news, features and fillers on the subject of the livestock industry and related matters. It is another phase of the endeavor to "tell our story" to the public.

mid-winter use; the winter and spring range which in the eyes of an easterner is that desolate looking area bisected by our transcontinental railroads, and the summer range up in the well watered timber lands. Remove one such type of property from the production of sheep or cattle in any given community of the West, by a federal land grab, and you might as well abandon the other two because their value is immediately impaired or destroyed. Until someone invents a method of creating wealth other than through the application of capital and labor to the natural resources we must adopt a sound middle-of-the-road land acquisition and public land management policy.

12. Generally speaking, the federal government is making but two types of investments here in the West. Vast sums are being spent to improve

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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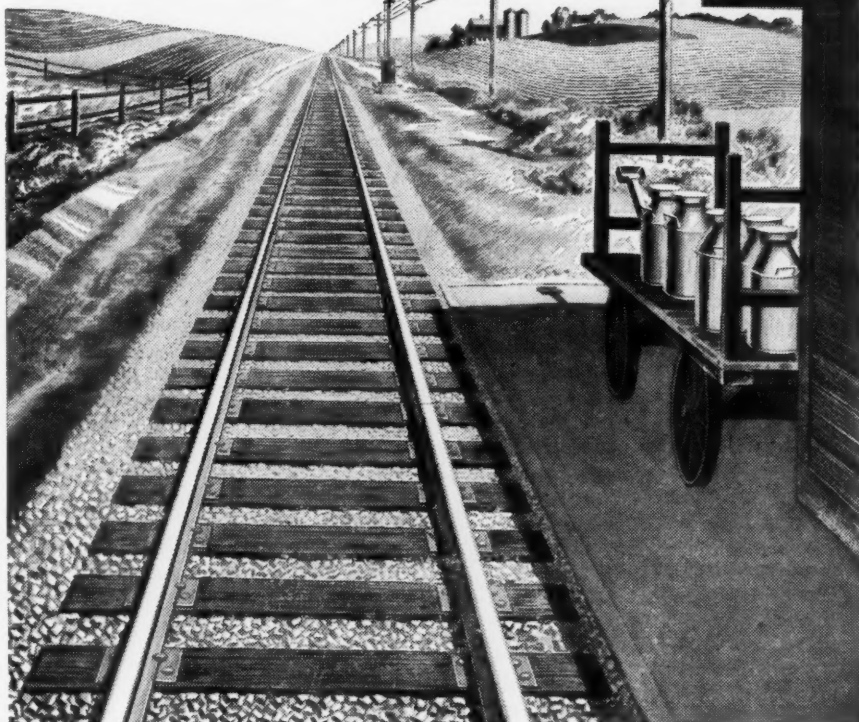
acreage by irrigating, most of which acreage is already in private ownership. Vast sums are being sent to the rural areas to generate power which is transmitted back to the urban centers for consumption. Outside of fire protection, and the plowing back of your grazing fees into the public domain, little or nothing is being done, in spite of the claims of the federal agencies, to improve the quantity and the quality of the grass and timber crops on the millions of acres of federal property that cover the West. Aggressive conservation, as we know it in the West, is pretty much a private property enterprise.

13. Lieu tax payments on federal acreage are needed in many cases to do equity, because local government cannot wait indefinitely for all these problems I have presented today to be solved. However, land use by our citizens is of paramount importance and we should ever remember that a land hungry federal bureau will pay any price to gain control. Since it is in the public interest that certain designated properties should remain in federal ownership, it is submitted for your consideration that all federal properties to be taxed, with the exception of national parks and monuments, should first be evaluated and then pay an annual tax equal to a certain per cent of their fair value. National parks and monuments are impossible to appraise. Here the per cent of revenue formula appears to be best. A fair rate of tax should help hasten a re-examination of our federal real estate inventory and its consequent diminution. Some California communities find themselves limited in by federal real estate, hence no room to expand, a problem that plagued England centuries ago. Proposals to shove back the boundaries of federal reservations to make room for

FARM WORKERS, OPERATORS MAY BE INCLUDED UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY

In his State of Union message to Congress, President Truman asked for an extension of social security benefits. One-third of the workers of this country are not now covered by the present old-age survivors' insurance program, and among these are hired farm workers and farm operators. The cost of the insurance would be shared by the worker and the employer, with details of operation still to be developed, and a different kind of plan would be worked out for the self-employed. Maybe employers would report and pay as employers in industry do now or they might use a stamp system for reporting wages and paying contributions. Under the system now being considered, retired farm workers or operators would be allowed to earn up to \$40 per month without being disqualified for retirement benefits.

This "country road" leads straight to the nation's markets



● The early American farmer knew every turn of the winding road on which he made the all-day trip to the nearest town—his only market.

Today the farmer's market begins at the nearest railroad loading platform—and extends to profitable markets all over the land.

Last year, for example, the railroads helped move the greatest harvest ever produced in a single year by any nation. They also hauled the bulk of the other raw materials produced by our nation's farms, forests, and mines—as well as most of our manufactured products. And they handled the entire job for an average charge of only 1¼ cents for hauling a ton a mile.

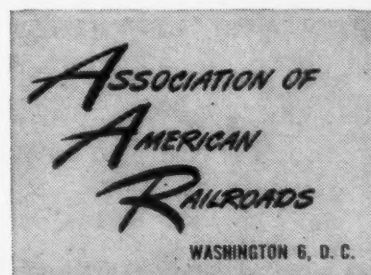
In performing this service, the American railroads once again proved to be the most efficient and economical transportation system in the world. To do an even better and more efficient job in the future, the railroads are now buying cars and

engines, reducing grades and curves, improving signals and shops, adding to their facilities—at a cost of a billion dollars a year.

The only way the railroads can carry on such a program for still better service is to have earnings which are more nearly in line with today's costs—earnings which will justify the large investments needed.

★

LISTEN TO THE RAILROAD HOUR presenting the world's great musical shows. Every Monday evening over the ABC Network, 8-8:45 Eastern, Mountain, and Pacific Time; 7-7:45 Central Time.



March, 1949

expansion are also being advocated in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Thus history repeats itself.

IT is your job and mine to give the facts and problems regarding our federal real estate inventory to the public. Never underestimate the good judgment of the public once it gets the facts. Your public relations committee has rolled up its sleeves preparatory to doing a good job upon this as well as other subjects. Are you going to back this committee? The answer must be in the affirmative if for no other reason than the fact that many of you are doing business on public property as of this moment. You are obliged to carry public confidence along with you as a matter of self protection. Furthermore, every one of you, from Florida to

Wenatchee, is a federal taxpayer. You and your neighbors should be interested in this problem on a nation-wide basis for the reason that as the federal land inventory grows, the taxes, at both the local and national level, of every citizen, likewise grow.

I have reserved to the last the special mention of the so-called public domain here in the 11 western states. Since the Taylor Act which regulates the administration of the public domain, and its lieu tax program, came into existence in 1934, the states of Idaho, Nevada and Oregon have by legislative action plowed back all their annual public domain lieu tax monies into the rehabilitation of this federal acreage by turning the money back to the federal government and to the advisory boards for such a purpose. A very worthy undertaking, conceived and fostered solely by

our western stockmen and supported by county government. In some western states I could mention, the educators seized this comparatively small pittance. Unfortunately, in some western states the wildlife organizations failed to help you men dedicate these revenues to the cause of rehabilitation and conservation.

As a spokesman for western county government which advocates an equitable lieu tax program on federal real estate, my primary interest at the moment is in the direction of a lush crop of grass extending over this entire acreage. Save the surface and you save all.

Let us put first things first. Double the grass crop on the public domain by using better seed, by removing the sagebrush, by stopping erosion, and you men will reap most of the benefit. The creation of values must precede all other objectives.



A group of prominent cattlemen from Sonora and Arizona.

The Utah Convention

UTAH CATTLEMEN ADD THANKS BY RESOLUTION TO ALL AGENCIES FOR STORM HELP.

In recognition of many years of outstanding leadership, and despite the fact that he did not consider himself a candidate, L. C. Montgomery of Heber, Utah, has again been re-elected president of the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers Association. The tribute was paid to the long-time cattleman at the organization's 30th annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Feb. 25-26.

Alonzo F. Hopkins of Woodruff was named first vice-president, and the following make up the list of second vice-presidents: Royal J. Brinkerhoff, Bicknell; E. S. Gardner, Pine Valley; McKinley Morrell, Junction; George Magnuson, Castle Dale; J. Wells Robins, Scipio; T. Ray Theurer, Providence;

Harve Williams, Blanding. The honorary first vice-president is J. A. Scorup of Moab; the honorary second vice-president, Horace Allred of Roosevelt.

The invocation which opened the meeting was given by Joseph T. Finlinson of Leamington. The secretary of state, Heber Bennion, Jr., welcomed the delegates, and Royal J. Brinkerhoff made the response.

The president's address featured a firm but reasonable approach to the stockman's current problems. He employed a well-taken comparison when he said "We're all on an elevator; we (with respect to cattle prices) are going down, while (expenses) are going up." There's confusion in the situation for the moment, said Mr. Montgomery—but, when all the adjustments are made, "we'd all like to get off on the same floor." . . . Mr. Montgomery's speech also stressed the importance to the industry of good public relations.

Radford Hall, assistant secretary of the American National, discussed activities of the National. Other programmed talks included those of Harry Smith, live-

stock specialist at Colorado A. & M. College, Fort Collins; Edward P. Cliff, assistant regional forester, Ogden, Utah; H. Byron Mock, regional administrator of the Bureau of Land Management at Salt Lake City; Louis L. Madsen, chief of the animal husbandry department at Utah's agricultural college in Logan (in a discussion of the emergency feed situation); Forrest E. Cooper of Lake View, Ore., on the subject of public land and acquisition, and John T. Caine III, manager of the National Western Stock Show at Denver.

Clyde Whitlock of Mayfield was elected to the chairmanship of the Utah forest advisory committee, and Royal Brinkerhoff was named a member of the national forest advisory board.

Resolutions adopted endorsed the action taken by the American National Live Stock Association at North Platte in January and commended the work of the public relations committee of that organization. The complete list of resolutions passed by the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers Association will be published in the next issue of the PRODUCER.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Stockman's Tax

(Continued from Page 12)

and all old animals which would normally be sold because of age or disease, to keep the herd at a normal size, or for other reasons.

As a rule of thumb, but not a conclusive presumption, the number of animals from the "breeding herd" sold during the taxable year may be compared with the number of raised animals added to the "breeding herd" as replacement during the same year. If the number of such animals sold does not exceed the raised replacement, then presumably there has been no sale of a capital asset. If, on the other hand, the number of breeding animals sold exceeds the number of replacements, the excess number sold are presumed to be capital assets.

If it is so determined that some of the animals sold during the year were capital assets, the animals sold in reduction of the breeding herd should be identified if possible. Normally these would be the young breeding animals, prime cows and ewes, or two-year-old heifers and yearling ewes, if such animals were sold during the year. If the number of head sold in reduction of the breeding herd exceeds such animals identified, then a sufficient additional number of breeding animals should be used to make up the total sales of capital assets. In the absence of information to the contrary, this number should be selected from sales of animals bringing the highest price, since normally animals held for breeding sell for higher prices than those held for sale.

The profit or loss on the sale of these breeding animal capital assets in the case of operators on an inventory basis is generally the difference between the price received and the value assigned to them in the opening inventory. In the case of operators on the cash basis, it is the full sale price of raised animals and the difference between the price received and the cost of animals purchased. In the case of a profit on sale of breeding animals held over six months, only 50 per cent of the gain is taxed to an individual, and the ceiling tax is 25 per cent of the full profit; losses, however, are deductible in full.

It makes no difference to whom the operator sells the animals or for what purpose they are used by the purchaser. The reasons of the seller, also, are of no significance; the ruling applies whether he sells to go out of business or because of drouth, economic circumstances or any other reason.

The same principles apply with respect to producers of registered stock as to those of range stock. I. T. 3712 states: "Similarly, if a livestock raiser of registered animals sells his normal production of animals to another livestock raiser who uses them for breeding purposes, they are considered as ordinary production and the gains resulting there-

March, 1949

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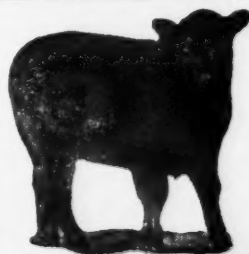
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from are ordinary income, not subject to Section 117(j) of the Code." However, the formulas and presumptions established in I. T. 3712 appear to be more easily applied to the commercial livestock raiser than to the registered livestock raiser. The difficulty lies in determining what sales fall into what categories. The problem is to work out some formula or presumption which would apply specifically to the raiser of registered stock. Several suggestions have been made which would require validat-

ing legislation or approval by bureau ruling. The following system, however, would appear to be possible under the present state of the rulings. A raiser of purebred livestock might set up on his books two categories of animals, (1) a breeding herd, and (2) cattle for sale. He could list in each category individually by tattoo number the animals which he considers to belong to each group. Accordingly, yearlings and older animals would be classified in one or the other group before sold. Provision should be made for permitting old cows to be switched from the breeding classification to cattle held for sale after they have passed their productive period. Similar provision should be made for switching individual animals from one category to another if, in extraordinary circumstances, there was a change in the purpose for which they were being held. If the break-down on the books of the operator was reasonable and reflected the pattern of his usual operations, it should be presumed prima facie to be correct. Any animals sold from the breeding herd group should be presumed prima facie to be subject to capital gains, and those from the other group should be presumed to produce ordinary income.

It is obvious from the foregoing that livestock producers must keep accurate records of their inventories if they wish the benefits of this capital gains ruling. Such records must be kept by operators on the cash receipts and disbursements basis as well as those who use inventories in reporting income. In the case of a controversy between a taxpayer and the government, the burden of proof is always on the taxpayer. A producer cannot expect to establish a case under this ruling unless he keeps accurate and full records of all transactions.

The ruling applies to all years subsequent to 1941. Refunds are in order for operators who reduced their herds during years which are still open; and operators are safe in filing their returns for 1948 on the basis of these rulings.

Involuntary Conversion

I. T. 3712 was promulgated to protect the stockman who is forced for reasons such as drouth to reduce or disperse his breeding herd. As mentioned before, it allows him to treat the gains realized by him from such sales as capital gains. There is, however, still another section of the Internal Revenue Code, Section 112(f) which would be even more favorable to the stockman if the commissioner would recognize that it applies to livestock. This section, in brief, provides that where a gain results from the involuntary conversion of property (as a result of its destruction in whole or in part, theft or seizure, or an exercise of the power of requisition or condemnation, or the threat or imminence thereof) such gain may be excluded entirely from taxable income if the taxpayer, within a

1949 Grazing Fees

THE 1949 average fee for grazing cattle on the national forests will be 49 cents per head per month and for sheep it will be 11 cents. In 1948 the averages were 40 cents and 10 cents, respectively. The fees are adjusted to fit local grazing use, and are arrived at on a basis of average prices received during the past year in the West for beef cattle and lambs, as computed by the BAE.

reasonable time thereafter, replaces the property converted by like property at a cost no less than the proceeds from the conversion. Southern Arizona cattlemen, stricken by severe drouth, attempted in 1943 to persuade the commissioner to apply the provisions of this section to the forced sales of their herd. The commissioner turned down the request on the ground that the phrase "threat or imminence" qualified only the phrase "exercise of the power of requisition or condemnation" and did not qualify the words "destruction," "theft" or "seizure." Several times since the commissioner turned down that request, various operators and members, officers and representatives of livestock associations have discussed this matter with the bureau. The bureau has remained firm in its position that Section 112(f) is not applicable to a stockman who involuntarily sells his herd because drouth conditions threaten its destruction.

Certainly it seems that stockmen should be entitled to the relief afforded by Section 112(f) when they have been forced through no fault of their own to dispose of their means of livelihood. In particular is this true of the stockmen who run steers only and of the feeders who do not have the advantages of the capital gains provisions. Two alternative courses of action are possible: namely, the testing of the question by court action, or the persuading of Congress to revise the law so as to word it unambiguously, in such a manner that it would cover the situation that stockmen must so often face.

Deducting Expense of Ranch And Farm Improvements

Another tax problem of importance to the stockman is the deduction of various amounts expended in the development of farms and ranches, such as, for instance, cost of clearing brush, trees and stumps; leveling and conditioning of land; rebuilding fence, planting grass and trees; drilling and equipping wells; building irrigation ditches, etc. It has been customary for stockmen as a practical matter to charge to expense and deduct the amounts expended for such activities. However, in the last two or three years the commissioner has issued certain rulings which indicate that revenue agents may be more strict for 1947, 1948 and future years in permitting the deduction of expenditures, the

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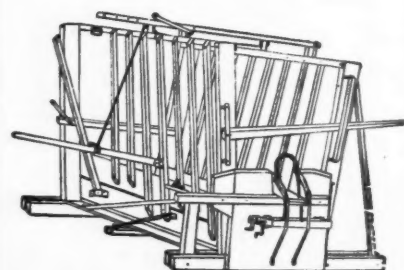
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PRODUCER

beneficial effect of which lasts for more than one year. Theoretically, such expenditures should be capitalized and depreciated over the life of the improvement. In view of what appears to be the unreasonably strict rulings of the bureau and because the stockmen should be permitted to deduct normal, annual, recurring expenditures which go to maintain their property and the productivity of the soil, the National Live Stock Tax Committee is working on this and has proposed that Congress and the bureau amend the regulations so as to recognize a deduction of such annual recurring expenses.

Death Losses

Recent blizzards and the tragedy of stock losses throughout so much of the western country have emphasized another potential tax problem of stockmen. This is one that recurs every year, but in some years assumes great importance—the question as to the deduction for death losses of livestock. If the operator uses inventories in determining his income, the death losses are taken care of automatically. Any reduction in the closing inventory over the opening inventory automatically reduces income. If the operator files his return on the cash basis, he has no deduction for death losses of raised animals for he has deducted the cost of raising them and he has no tax basis for the animals destroyed. Purchased animals, however, may form the basis for a casualty deduction. The cost of animals is not deductible when the purchase is made, and is deductible if and when the animals die. Similarly, a deduction is permitted with respect to animals capitalized for the purpose of taking depreciation. The undepreciated cost of these animals should be deducted as a loss in the year of death.

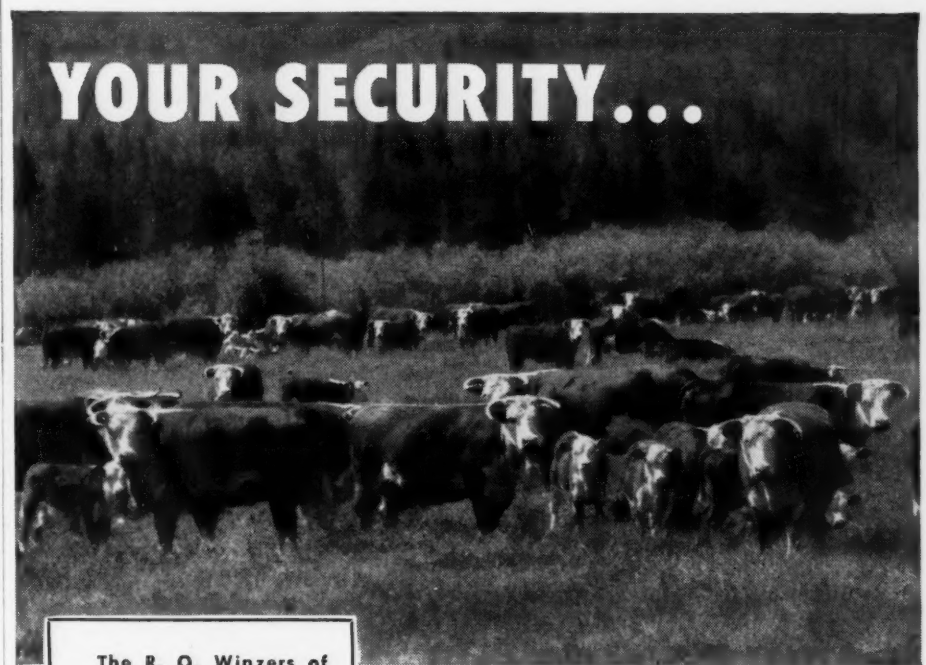
In conclusion, a word should be said with respect to the possibility that in the near future the laws, regulations and rulings governing the taxation of livestock may be considerably revised. There are presently pending before the courts several cases in which the validity of Bureau Rulings I. T. 3666 and I. T. 3712 is being attacked. These cases oppose the principle that animals sold from the breeding herd in the ordinary course of operations are productive of ordinary income. If the government is unable to support this principle, it would mean a substantial loss of tax revenue, and representatives of the bureau have indicated informally that the government may thereupon take steps to change the regulations and rulings in such a manner as to replace this loss. The privilege of deducting the expense of raising animals has been threatened; also, the right of operators to claim capital gains on sale of inventoried cattle. A new ruling, I. T. 3932, implies a threat of taxing livestock raisers on the market value of raised animals transferred to their breeding herds. Because of these uncertainties, the National Live Stock Tax

Committee, which represents most of the livestock associations all over the country, maintains a close contact with the bureau and with Congress in an effort to see to it that the stockmen get fair tax treatment without special advantage, and that the tax principles governing stock raisers are simplified and made as clear and definite as possible.

BASING STATE LAND RENTAL ON GRAZING CAPACITY

MONTANA and Arizona are both considering new legislation in connection with the rental of state lands. In Mon-

tana, it is planned to re-appraise grazing lands on a carrying-capacity basis with the new rental rate to be based on livestock prices for the preceding year. (An animal unit would be figured as a 1,000-pound steer or five sheep.) A similar bill concerning Arizona's 8,500,000 (roughly) acres of state-owned grazing land is before the state senate there. At present the rentals are based on a 3-cent-per-acre charge yearly for all classes of land. The proposed legislation, based on animal units at one mature cow or horse, or five sheep or goats, would determine rates according to the actual carrying capacity of each piece of land.



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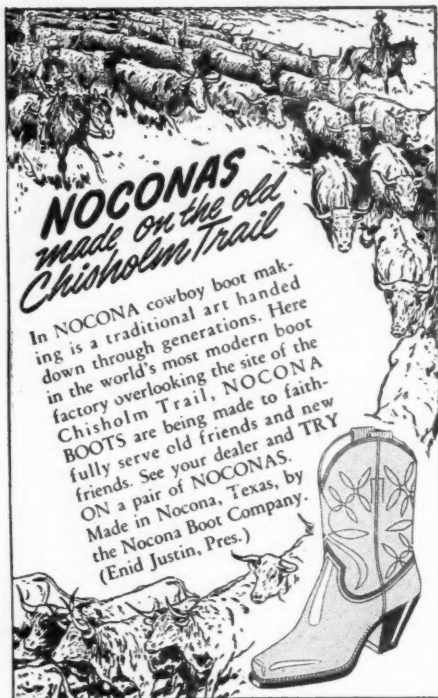


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Florida Journey

By DAVID I. DAY

NO ONE interested in investigating the cattle possibilities of Florida should consider passing up the region around Charlotte Harbor, north of the popular winter-home city of Fort Myers.

This includes all or most of such counties as Charlotte, DeSoto and Sarasota, pretty well down the Gulf of Mexico side of the state toward the Everglades. A good center of operations is the town of Punta Gorda, a cattle-minded county-seat, thriving and attractive.

From Ft. Myers eastward we enjoyed vastly a trip in January on State Road 80. It leads along the canalized Caloosahatchee River all the way nearly to Lake Okeechobee. Much of the way it goes through cattle-and-cowboy country as typical as western Texas. It is a land where the rodeo is featured Fourth of July entertainment. In fact, the rancher from the West could settle in that locality and feel at home.

He could even see Indians—a little different type of red man than we see ordinarily on the western reservations, it is true; but a relatively few Seminoles of two different sorts occupy parts of the great swamp region called the Everglades. (From all appearances the Everglades, with systematic and extensive drainage, will in due time be merely history. Only the new Everglades National Park will retain the old character.)

We reached Lake Okeechobee in late evening. In size, it is the second lake wholly within the U.S.A. (Lake Michigan is much larger.) Drainage and transportation canals from east coast to west coast cut across it, filled with all sorts of boats and barges, plus many pleasure yachts and cabin cruisers.

The Lake is shrinking in size because of drainage, the land reclaimed being black, humus-filled, fertile. The largest market gardening operations in snapbeans and celery that we've ever seen skirt the big lake. Around the southern shore is a vast government dike to protect the farms in time of hurricane. Some towns, like Belle Glade, have become sizable little cities due to the market gardening developments.

Sugar cane is another development—miles square of it, with a sugar refinery at Clewiston on the lake's south shore. It is an industry dovetailing with cattle. . . . Lots of feed furnished, especially in the form of feeding molasses. The Everglades cane, on highly rich soil, makes a feeding molasses extremely high in protein content.

If a western man were to start a Florida cattle ranch, he would find not merely different Indians, but also a lot of different grasses and clovers, a new and powerful interest in pasture fertilization and general improvement; and he would see Brahma cattle and various crosses thereof—with Shorthorns, with Herefords and some we saw that looked like crosses on grade dairy stock.

Not too many years ago, Florida was a sort of open-range proposition. Then the highways were built, the state was advertised, tourists came by the thousands, they brought their cars—and they went home with a gripe. They said cattle and hogs on the highways constituted a travel hazard. Now Floridians admit it. Many counties have forced livestock back of fences. The new state administration is committed to a policy of statewide fencing.

So we visited friends at Clewiston, made the trip entirely around Lake Okeechobee. (When you go to Florida, stop at the town of Okeechobee. The folks are great boosters.) Just one not-too-good detour and we were back on State Road 80, heading into West Palm Beach, one of the lovely cities of the famed East Coast. Floridians claim more cattle than any other state east of the Mississippi. They are quick to admit the quality could be improved. And it seems to be improving. Said one landowner: "We're

(Continued on Page 38)



Motorized "field trains" bring in sugar cane near Clewiston. Sugar cane makes its contribution to Florida as a cattle state.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

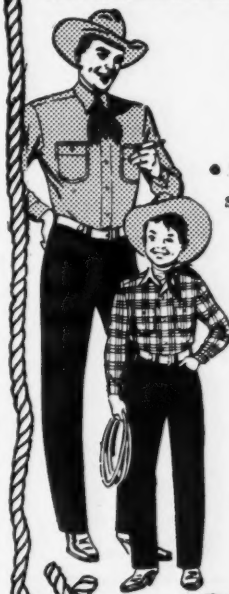
Bills IN Congress

The following bills are deemed of interest to our readers. If any title interests you and if you would like to see the bill itself, write to the American National Live Stock Association, 515 Cooper Bldg., Denver 2, Colo., giving number and sponsor of the measure. A copy will be sent to you. After you have read it let us have your comments on it.

- H. R. 40, (Reciprocal Trade), to make permanent President's authority under Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. By Dingell (Mich.)—to Committee on Ways and Means.
- H. R. 43, to retrocede to New Mexico exclusive jurisdiction held by U. S. over lands in Los Alamos Project. By Fulton (Penn.)—to Committee on Banking and Currency.
- H. R. 55, to include certain lands in Carson National Forest, New Mexico. By Fulton (Penn.)—to Committee on Banking and Currency.
- H. R. 104, to repeal section 5a of Interstate Commerce Act, relating to exemption from antitrust laws in certain agreements between carriers. By O'Hara (Minn.)—to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- H. R. 132, to provide for payments to states and subdivisions for loss of revenue due to acquisition of property by U. S. for military purposes. By Bartlett (Alaska)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 133, to increase authorizations for agricultural experiment stations in Alaska. By Bartlett (Alaska)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 181, (Oleo), to repeal tax on oleomargarine. By Grant (Ala.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 186, regarding disposal of certain lands acquired by government for defense purposes. By Hays (Ark.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 266, to authorize appropriations for protection of forest lands increasing from \$11,000,000 in 1951 to \$20,000,000 in 1956 and annually thereafter. By Pickett (Tex.)—to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- H. R. 427, to provide for Columbia Valley Authority similar to the TVA. By Jackson (Wash.)—to Committee on Public Works.
- H. R. 445, providing for taxation by states and their political subdivisions of certain realty owned by U. S. By Keating (N. Y.)—to Committee on Public Lands.
- H. R. 521, to provide for deduction from gross income of expenses incurred by farmers for soil and water conservation. By Mason (Ill.)—to Committee on Ways and Means.
- H. R. 568, to provide payments to states with respect to certain lands of the U. S. By Whitten (Miss.)—to Committee on Public Lands.
- H. R. 796, to create Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Redwood Forest, California. By Douglas (Calif.)—to Committee on Education and Labor.
- H. R. 836, to authorize transfer of certain property in Utah to Secretary of the Interior for use by Bureau of Indian Affairs. By Hale (Me.)—to Committee on Ways and Means.
- H. R. 849, to establish a national agricultural land and water conservation program. By Hope (Kans.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 855, to regulate registration, manufacture, labeling and inspection of fertilizer in interstate commerce. By Lemke (N. D.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 885, to include cost of farm labor in determining parity price of agricultural commodities. By Pace (Ga.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 894, to create conservation authorities similar to TVA. By Rankin (Miss.)—to Committee on Public Works.
- H. R. 915, to authorize Department of Agriculture to investigate and report on projects for reclaiming lands by drainage. By Redden (N. C.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 951, to authorize construction of Vermejo reclamation project, New Mexico. By Miles (N. M.)—to Committee on Public Lands.
- H. R. 990 (Tax) to provide for revenue revision and correct tax inequities. 110. Section 23 (a) (1) to provide that amounts spent by farmers for soil conservation be treated as expenses deductible in year in which incurred. 134. Section 117(j) (1) to include "animals used in the trade or business . . . except those . . . customarily . . . selected during the taxable year for sale or exchange in the ordinary course of business." By Jenkins (O.)—to Committee on Ways and Means.

March, 1949

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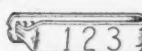
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- H. R. 1211 (**Reciprocal Trade**), to extend period during which President is authorized to enter into foreign trade agreements. By Doughton (N. C.)—to Committee on Ways and Means.
- H. R. 934, authorizing construction and operation of dam and incidental works on **Colorado River** at Bridge Canyon. By Murdock (Ariz.)—to Committee on Public Lands.
- H. R. 1254, to authorize **acquisition of lands** for Everglades National Park, Florida. By Smith (Wis.)—to Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.
- H. R. 1355, authorizing **payments to states** based on fair value of national forest lands therein. By Engle (Calif.)—to Committee on Public Lands.
- H. R. 1376, to provide aid to **farmers in housing** and other buildings. By Jones (Ala.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 1399, same as H. R. 521.
- H. R. 1560, to establish in the Bureau of Land Management a **record of title** to all lands held by the federal government. By O'Hara (Minn.)—to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- H. R. 1713, to provide for **deduction from gross income** for income tax purposes of expenses incurred for soil and water conservation.
- H. J. Res. 114, to permit the Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation to make **disaster loans**. By Barrett (Wyo.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. Res. 66, giving Committee on Public Lands authority to make **investigations** in its jurisdiction. By Secrest (O.)—to Committee on Rules.
- H. R. 2033 (**Fair Labor Standards Act**), to eliminate exemption of agriculture from Wage-Hour Law and in effect to make farmers and ranchers subject to its provisions. By Rankin (Miss.)—to Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- H. R. 2167 (Reed-Bulwinkle Repeal), to **repeal the Carrier Agreements Act** of 80th Congress. By Celler, (N. Y.)—To Committee on the Judiciary.
- H. R. 2312, to authorize secretary of agriculture to **sell submarginal lands** owned by U. S. and administered by the SCS, which are suitable for agriculture or grazing. By Mills (Ark.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 2368, to establish a soil and water **conservation policy**. By Jensen (Ia.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 2419, to provide 10 per cent of funds from national forests be expendable for **recreation**. By Tackett (Ark.)—to Committee on Agriculture.
- H. R. 2756 (**Economic Controls**), to promote maximum employment, production and buying. By Spence (Ky.)—to Committee on Banking and Currency.
- S. 2, to provide use of 25 per cent of grazing receipts from national forests for **range improvements**. By McCarran (Nev.)—to Committee on the Judiciary.
- S. 121, to amend REA Act to provide for **rural telephones**. By Hill (Ala.)—to Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.
- S. 359, allows farmers to carry over and carry back net operating losses for eight years for **income tax** purposes. By Langer (N. D.)—to Committee on Finance.
- S. 362, creates Commission on Federal Contributions to State and Local Governments to provide standards and regular payments to state and local governments in **lieu of taxes** on federal property. By Butler (Neb.)—to Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.
- S. 367 (**Price support**), to provide for basic commodities; to amend Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended; and for other purposes. By Russell (Ga.)—to Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

CREDIT FOR PICTURES

P. 18, Livestock Weekly, Memphis; Pp. 19, 21, 24, 33, Matt Culley, Tucson, Ariz.; P. 28, Florida News & Photo Svc., Jacksonville; P. 43, Geo. Kirksey, Joint Livestock Committee.

SALE AT AGAR, S. D.

Sutton Brothers, at Agar, S. D., have announced that their annual spring sale will be held May 26.

TOP MEAT JUDGES

A team of students from the Oklahoma A. & M. College won the intercollegiate meat judging contest at the Southwestern Exposition and Stock Show at Fort Worth, with the Texas Technological College ranking second.

The contest was sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

"Custom-Built" Meat Buying

A butcher in New York, named Gerald Ettenberg, has found a new way of merchandising his meat without risking the loss resulting from leftovers on his own purchases. Twice a month he sends to his customers a printed menu on which he lists three basic meat courses (thrift, modern and gourmet.) Each consists of a supply for the family for one week. Mr. Ettenberg buys only exactly enough meat to fill the orders of these customers and so far reports very good success with his ingenious system.

Proper Land Use

Talk at North Platte convention by Kent Leavitt, president of National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

WE HAVE THE PROBLEM OF more people and less land. It is a problem that has faced many other countries in the world before and most of them have not satisfactorily faced up to it. It is a problem that involves the growing pains of our great country. It is a problem that involves a great deal of pulling and hauling between different segments of our society and economy. You must realize that these pullings and haulings, as I choose to call them, have tremendous force. The power of the vote lies with the people in a democracy and some of these influences have more votes than have we as land owners and operators, so in working out our problems we must consider these facts. . . . We must realize that four out of five voting people in America are not land owners and operators. Right straight across the country it is four urban people and one landowner and operator.

Basically what we have in America is a population of 146 million, and a little more than 3½ acres of good land for each person. But our population is increasing at the rate of 2,000,000 a year, and if we can believe the technicians of the Department of Agriculture we are losing 500,000 acres a year from our good land by erosion of one kind or another. (You have gotten allergic to the word "erosion." It has been so abused. Let us say "improper land use.")

Now, some day in the future those two lines are going to cross and at that point our civilization is apt to go down. History is full of examples of great countries of the world which have turned their eyes away from their agriculture. Great civilizations have gone down because they have misused their lands.

NOW, the question is: What are we, as a nation, going to do about this? Our problem is to keep from fouling up our own nests as other countries have done before. How are we going to face up to that problem? Well, to my way of thinking there are three steps which we must take: The first step is in our thinking about the ownership of land. I do not want to see any changes in state laws that give you the right to land in fee simple. They must remain. What I am talking about is a change in the thinking about the ownership of land, from one of ownership in fee simple, to do with as you see fit, to one of trusteeship.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

The duties of a trustee are two: The first duty of a trustee, if it is a money trust or a trust invested in stocks and bonds, is to see that the life tenant of the trust gets a fair income. If you are a trustee of such an account and do not want to shirk your responsibilities you just can't put all that money into $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 per cent municipal bonds and say to the life tenant, "It is tax free, but it is safe." They can take you to court and make you do some work which will allow the life tenant a fair income—4, 4½, 5 per cent—whatever it may be.

The second is to pass on the principal of the trust to the ultimate beneficiary, the new owner, in as good or better condition than when the trustee received it. To me that should be the thinking about land in America. I think a majority of the owners of land in America think that way, but still there are some who do not. There is the story of the old farmer in New England who moved west and farmed awhile, and then moved west again, and he wore out three farms and was starting on his fourth. Well, he said, "I am not farming as good as I know how, anyway." That is the type of thinking that must be stopped in America.

We also have to develop a new science of proper land use. It is a science that has taken great strides in America today, but like all science it never will be completely developed. That new science has come from the hard work of the farmers and the ranchers. It has come as a result of experimental station work, either in state or federal government experiment stations, or experiments by big land owners themselves, and through the work of the land grant colleges and the Department of Agriculture. We, in America, have built up this new science of proper land use to a greater peak than any other nation in the world. . . .

We have a third problem, and that is the main problem about which I want to talk to you: the job of getting this new science applied to every acre in America without changing our form of government.

THERE are three ways in which we could do this job of getting the new science applied to every acre in America: The first one, which we do not want, but which is a possible method, is mandatory legislation. America, you know, is a country in which we are apt to say, if we do not like something, "Let us have a new law." Now, here we have got this great population, four urban to one rural. We are doing everything we can to stimulate their interest in our renewable resources and they may well someday say, "Well, let us have a law about it." "Let us make these fellows take care of their land." That might be a federal or a state law. We don't want it but we are closer to it than we realize. The Chamber of Commerce in Winston-Salem, N. C., passed a resolution last year that soil

conservation practices should be made mandatory by law in that state. I don't think they have thought it through. Those men are not crackpots. They are the tobacco men, the hosiery mills, the Chatham blanket mills, all that sort of conservative southern businessmen; and yet they passed such a resolution and sent it on to the state legislature because they had seen what had happened to their civilization when their land had been ruined by improper use.

We have got to watch such legislation. There is only one way to prevent it. We must have something better.

The second way of doing this job would be by bribery, bribery from the federal and state treasuries, paying everybody to do everything, putting thousands on the federal payroll to oversee. You, I am sure, do not want that method. But again let me warn you we are closer to it than you might think.

I have seen plans drawn up by bureaus in the Department of Agriculture. One of them came from a meeting held

in Colorado Springs last year, in which that method was suggested. They wanted to start at one billion dollars a year and go on up ad infinitum, because they said that was the only way to get it done in time. I am against it. A great many people are against it. . . .

THERE is a third way of doing this job, and that is by a united national effort, an effort which is going to call for a great deal from the land owner but also is going to call for a great deal from the urban city person—education, money, time and effort.

I speak to you as president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. I hope you realize that I am not a federal employee. I hope you realize that soil conservation districts are established under individual state laws. They are so set up under your individual state enabling acts that the conservation districts cannot be formed without a vote of the land

(Continued on Page 39)



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LADIES' CHOICE



Through a RANCH HOUSE WINDOW

FOR US HERE AT THE RANCH HOUSE, THE "BIG SNOW" OF 1949 IS JUST A MEMORY. WE ARE LUCKY ONES, WE KNOW. TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, MAY I SAY AGAIN, "I'M SORRY."

DUE to the need to meet a "deadline," my last column was written a day or two before snow conditions became serious in a large part of the western cattle country. I felt ashamed, reading it, to have complained a little about our not-too-difficult situation, when many of the PRODUCER's readers were facing a mighty serious and even tragic loss.

I hope you will forgive me, knowing that I'd not have written so lightly, later.

* * *

We've read and heard a lot over the radio regarding the "hay lift" and other dramatic sidelights on the snow situation. It occurs to me that many of the Cow Belles probably had exciting, difficult experiences that the rest of us would like to share. I wish some of you would write, telling your own story of this worst of all winters, as you saw it. I'd like to publish excerpts from your letters, from various states, so we could get a sort of over-all woman's-eye view of it.

* * *

Over and over one heard or read the comment that the most surprising thing the rescue crews found was how well most victims of the storm had managed to get along in spite of everything.

I don't know why it should have seemed so surprising. More than any other class in America now, the cattleman is at least a spiritual descendant of the pioneer. Most of them have had a lot of experience "making out all right" regardless of the weather or other natural obstacles—and without

much outside help, either.

I imagine a lot of ranch families got a sort of bitter chuckle out of the editorial comment of a national picture magazine to the effect that "the ranchers had gone out, disregarding their own safety, to minister to their animals."

I wonder what else they could have done? Let them starve? There was enough of that starving that couldn't be helped, when the feed ran out, anyhow.

* * *

Spring, beautiful and beguiling, has come with a rush this past week. It's probably a false and fickle mountain spring, and I know it cannot be depended upon. But neither could I bear to stay away from the sweet-smelling earth of the garden plot. I've spent the last few afternoons digging the patches of Bermuda grass—horrid stuff!—out of my lawn and the boysenberry patch. It's not supposed to thrive at this elevation anyhow, but I apparently brought some bits of it to the ranch with transplants from our former home near San Diego, and now it's begun to creep in and take over everywhere I've done much irrigating. After last summer's drouth and this winter's cold, it can't be very healthy—so, perhaps, I can get rid of it before its control becomes the endless chore it was in my last garden.

This afternoon, I planted radishes and one row of onion sets—much too early, I suppose, but they'll taste all the better for that. And, in the sunny south window above my laundry trays, I set a small flat of Earliana tomatoes. I'll have to

baby them along under hot-caps later, but they're worth it, I think. I like to plant Earlianas a good six weeks before I put in the Stone and Beefsteak tomato seed; that way, I usually have quantities of tomatoes from early July until long after killing frost. This year, in fact, some of the last of the tomatoes I'd picked green and ripened indoors lasted until the first of January—and nearly half a lug still waiting on the darkened back porch froze there the first of our early January storm, at that!

* * *

The very final word in our "unusual" snow is this quotation from a verse by Mrs. Bertha Marcy in the Julian (California) "Nugget." It's entitled "The Beautiful Snow," and is too long to quote in its entirety, unfortunately. This gives you the idea, though.

... "The skiers look up at the clouds hanging low

And hope we'll have more of this beautiful snow.

They don't care for the story, though they've often been told

Of animals out day and night in the cold ...

... The barn is snowed in, the feed's getting low,

It's hard to get up there in all of this snow.

Often we wonder, will Spring ever appear?

Our pocket-book's flat, for feed's mighty dear.

We admire all this whiteness—and wish it would go—

For we've had all we want of the beautiful snow."

* * *

And so, I suppose, say all of the Cow Belles!

At Home on the Range

Due to the exigencies of this month's "deadline," we won't be able to start publishing our Meat Recipe Contest entries until next month. Have you sent one in yet? If not, I hope you will. The deadline is April 10, remember. We'll pay a dollar for every recipe published, and then give you a chance to choose the \$5 winner by ballot later on. Only one recipe from each contestant will be published—so make it your BEST one.

* * *

We hope to have more information by next month on a very interesting activity of one auxiliary—the Wyoming Cow-Belle Cook Book.

The ladies, it seems, had expected to sell the few books they'd had printed for enough to defray expenses and, perhaps, have a little over to add to the treasury

Visiting ladies gather in the lobby during the South Dakota convention. (Left to right) Mrs. Bud Thomas, Interior; Mrs. Ralph Jones, Midland; Mrs. Burrell Phipps, Belvidere; Mrs. Baxter Berry, Belvidere; Mrs. Ray Carr, Valentine, Nebr.



for various contributions during the year.

To their surprise, orders by the hundreds have been pouring in from all over the United States—and at least a third of the orders are coming from men! Virginia (Mrs. Bob) O'Neil, their publicity director, claims that it may soon be competing with the Kinsey report in popularity.

It is a beautiful book, made of leather and tooled—very western in make-up. The recipes contain ingredients most usually found on farms and ranches, and are exceptionally fine.

I hope to have all the information as to where they can be gotten, how much they will cost, and so on, by next month. And perhaps a story from the ladies themselves, telling how the book came into being, together with information that might help any other auxiliary deciding to try their hand at a similar project.

We will be publishing favorite meat recipes next month. Will one of them be yours?

D. L. McD.

COWBELLE NEWS

The Santa Cruz County CowBelles, in the southeastern section of Arizona, climaxed their yearly round of social functions by sponsoring a tea and luncheon for visiting women during the Arizona Cattle Growers convention in Nogales, Feb. 11-13.

Among out-of-state ranch women attending were Mrs. A. A. Smith, wife of the president of the American National Live Stock Association, and Mrs. G. W. Evans, wife of the president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association.

Favors at the tea were bell-shaped pottery key-ring charms with each individual's brand on her favor. For the luncheon, the favors were heart-shaped ash trays with comical cow heads as a part of the decoration. Mrs. Lee Wynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. (Dink) Parker, pioneer cattle ranchers, made



Mrs. J. M. Keith (left), secretary of the Arizona Cattle Growers, with Mrs. Burt Morgan, vice-president of the Arizona CowBelles.

the favors at her studio in Patagonia, Ariz.

* * *

The Santa Cruz County CowBelles banded together in 1947 for the purpose of promoting social events for cattle ranch families. With a membership of over 100 women in seven communities, the group has only one business meeting a year, at which officers are elected and representatives from each community are chosen. These officers and representatives function as the executive board of the organization, handling business matters for the group.

At least five social affairs are scheduled each year. One or more community groups plan a program for members, or for the members, their families, and their friends.

Activities in 1948 got under way with a tea held at the Crown C Ranch; the Sonoita and Elgin groups served as hostesses. Some 60 or 70 women spent the afternoon visiting and listening to a short talk on local ranch history and ranch lore.

The next event was a June picnic at the Cienaga in Canille sponsored by the Canille and San Rafael groups. This all-day gathering brought ranching families together from all parts of the county.

In the fall another picnic, sponsored this time by the Nogales-Tubac groups, was held at the home of Matt Culley in the Santa Rita Mountains. While children played games, adults talked and looked at pictures of work being done at the nearby forest experimental station.

On Dec. 4 the Patagonia group entertained at a potluck supper and dance for members and their guests. Over 200 persons attended this affair. For those who wished to bring their younger children, a calf pen, (complete with games, prizes and attendants) kept the children happy while their parents danced in the adjoining hall.

Decorations carried out the theme of home on the ranch with wall murals and table pieces picturing scenes of ranch life.

Present officers of the group include Mrs. Marshall Ashburn, president; Mrs. John Jones, first vice-president; Mrs. John Cummings, second vice-president; Mrs. Sam Hill, secretary; Miss Helen Seibold, treasurer, and Mrs. George Berch, auditor.

Representatives are Mrs. Blake Carrington, Sonoita; Mrs. Edna Houston, Elgin; Mrs. Buel Hutchinson, San Rafael; Mrs. William Holbrook, Patagonia; Mrs. Tom Bell, Nogales, and Mrs. Gene England, Tubac.



Home-town people. At left, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Hansen, with the F. H. LaVelles—all of North Platte, the recent convention city.

The Nebraska CowBelles, organized during the 59th annual convention of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association in Omaha last year, has 151 charter members, around 375 members in all at the present time and is growing fast, according to the ladies themselves. This group from the Cornhusker State is, like most of the others, "purely social" in nature. An interesting sidelight, however, is this: Many ladies around the state who want to become members have been instrumental in getting their husbands (or fathers) to join the regular livestock men in order to make the distaff side of the family eligible, and are happily credited with adding to the membership strength of the Nebraska Stock Growers Association.

Since the CowBelles organization was formed expressly for the purpose of co-operating on hostess duties at the North Platte convention of the National in January, it was naturally disappointing to everyone when the heavy snows and blizzard conditions at that time kept many of the members from being present. This, however, did not stop the ones who could be there from working overtime to keep the visiting ladies entertained. One

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SALES

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FOR A CATALOG WRITE
S. S. (Vet) Chase, Sale Manager, Holyoke, Colo.

hundred sixty-five were present at a tea which was one of the planned events. The tables were adorned with beautiful large cowbells fashioned from bronze and yellow chrysanthemums, and each guest received a corsage of baby orchids. A breakfast also honored the out-of-state visitors.

The president, Mrs. Trego of Sutherland, was named "Queen for a Day" at the Ak-Sar-Ben Rodeo in October, 1948,

and rode at the head of the grand entry march.

Dr. C. R. Watson of Mitchell, head of the Stock Growers, also carried his association's greetings for the occasion.

The Colorado CowBelles, like a number of the other auxiliary groups of this kind, have a large bell which is used as a gavel and attention-getter at meetings. The ladies meet only once a year, at the

same time as their menfolk are gathered for the yearly convention of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, and—because the more serious endeavors are turned to by the members through their respective clubs and organizations in the home communities—the purpose is purely social.

The Wyoming CowBelles, organized in 1940, have as one of their interesting activities the keeping of a scrap book, one section of which is devoted to the Baby CowBelles. Several members joined as tiny babies. Sarah Margaret Keeline of Gillette, for example, became a member when she was one day old. She is incidentally, the youngest member of the only fourth-generation CowBelle family in Wyoming. There are also several third-generation CowBelles. The organization will hold its convention in June at Sheridan.

This group incorporates some charitable work in its program.

Women's Conference Asks Trade Act Repeal

When the Twenty-third Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense was held in Washington the end of January, one of the resolutions there adopted urged upon Congress the repeal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act as "constituting an ever-present menace to our national defense and our economy, and an unwarranted encroachment by the executive branch of the government upon the legislative powers conferred upon Congress by the Constitution of the United States."

SECOND ANNUAL HEREFORD SHOW AND SALE

The second annual Hereford show and sale sponsored by the Idaho Hereford Breeders Association will be held at the Western Idaho Fair Grounds in Boise, Friday, Mar. 18, according to Vera Garrett, Horseshoe Bend, secretary of the association. One hundred Hereford bulls and cows will be entered in the sale and show with E. F. Rinehart of Boise as judge and Norman Warsinski of Billings as auctioneer.

After the sale the annual banquet and dance will be held at the Hotel Boise.

EXPECT HIGH RECORD AT GRAND NATIONAL JR. SHOW

A preliminary survey indicates that animal exhibits in the 1949 Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition and Arena Show at San Francisco will establish an all-time high record. The event, booked for Apr. 9-19, has entries from 1,172 exhibitors—both 4-H club members and Future Farmers of America—for 3,860 head of beef and dairy cattle, lambs and hogs.

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Future of the Industry

Excerpts from talk by Walter A. Netsch, vice-president of Armour and Co., before American National convention in January.

THE subject of this discussion, "The Future of Our Industry," appears sufficiently inclusive to warrant speculation in any field, from livestock breeding and feeding to agricultural policy and economics. We now approach the end of our fourth post-war year, and many believe that the outlook for the livestock and meat industry is crystalizing. This design may seem clear to the professional business prophet, but thus far I cannot discover within myself the insight necessary to discern it. Hence I promise to predict neither livestock supply prospects nor prices.



Walter Netsch

There is one aspect of the future which concerns all of us in which I am deeply interested, and that is the need of American citizens for the essential animal proteins. We, in the livestock and meat industry, have a great responsibility for serving the nation. You are specialists in productive management and conservation of the soil. Those of us in the meat packing business must process your livestock into meat and distribute it to the ultimate consumer. It seems desirable that we should make a critical analysis of every phase of our cattle and beef industry to determine what we can do to fulfill more completely our obligations.

It is reassuring to know that we are producing a necessity for which consumers have a large unsatisfied desire and for which, when they have the money, they are willing to pay almost any price. . . . Controls, coercion and regulation will not produce the proteins which our consumers must have. Price and profits are the motives that can be depended on to bring about the necessary production.

Another bright feature in the outlook for the livestock and meat industry is the rapidly expanding human population, and the fact that for many years we will have an increasing number of young people, who are the heaviest meat eaters. Also there are good prospects for a continuing high level of consumer income.

With this set of facts, it would be

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relatively easy to reach the conclusion that the future is rosy and that there is nothing to worry about. Why take chances with weather and price fluctuations; why struggle to increase production; why not just sit back, take it easy, and collect the higher prices that consumers will pay for reduced supplies of beef?

I am certain that none of you have talked yourself into such a state of mind, although it is understandable if some people have been thinking of that approach to our problems. Actually, in my opinion, now is the time to begin an aggressive program for expanding our beef production. It is not enough just to maintain present levels or to let nature take its course. We should have a goal and a program for attaining it. Rather than relax and hope to maintain income by getting higher prices for fewer pounds of meat, we should seek ways and means of expanding production. Instead of making a luxury out of steaks and beef in general, we should be striving to put our products within reach of every consumer in the country. Instead of trying to convince the consumer that he should spend a larger portion of his income for beef, we should put our emphasis on the need for giving him more value for his money so that he will be eager to spend more dollars for our products.

Possibly expanded production will mean lower prices, but it does not

necessarily mean lower profits. The way to achieve greater production is through aggressive action to reduce costs and to increase efficiency, thereby maintaining and increasing the profit on a larger volume even at lower prices . . . Fixed expenses are such a large portion of total costs in every segment of the industry that the benefits of larger volume are rather obvious.

There can also be many intangible benefits from a program such as I am advocating. Because meat, and particularly beef, is such an important element in the American diet, its price is a pressing public and political issue. If the experts are correct in their belief that the demand for meat will increase be-

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cause of expanding population, relatively high consumer incomes and better dietary education, then high meat prices and inadequate supplies will continue to be important public questions. To protect ourselves against pressures, regulations and interference, it seems necessary and desirable to do everything within power to provide an increased supply of beef and other meat products.

We should not casually dismiss the possibility of substitutes for meat proteins. Remember that high prices do encourage the development of new substitutes and the greater utilization of those already established. We can laugh at synthetic proteins, cereal and soybean diets, and other substitutes, but if our products remain in the luxury class too long, our market may begin to slip away from us. Human tastes and consumer habits are all in our favor, but we should not be too complacent. There are many examples of products that have lost a dominant position because of substitutes developed under an umbrella of high prices.

THIS brings me to a point which seems contradictory to our customary beliefs. A higher production level might be very helpful in stabilizing our industry. The present demand and high prices of meat are principally the result of increased incomes which at last have made

it possible for a large segment of our population to satisfy its desire for meat. A decrease in consumer income will force many of these people out of the market, and meat prices will have to decline sharply to move the entire supply. We should be building a broader and more permanent base for our meat consumption. If we can increase production and make more meat available at lower prices, we can get a larger portion of our population into the habit of including a desirable quantity of meat in their diets at all times.

It is difficult for a business or an industry to remain stationary. Unless there is aggressive leadership and action to keep it growing, there is always a tendency for it to start shrinking. Usually, a declining business or industry cannot remain successful or profitable. To have a healthy and prosperous cattle and beef industry we should be planning and striving for an expanding one. The best defense is a good offense.

You and your association have come to the realization that good public opinion and reaction is very essential to your well-being. In our tours for eastern leaders, we have had an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into the reactions of those people to your problems, and also to the way the problems are presented to them. In general, the result has been very favorable. These men, by their off-the-record comments

and discussions, indicate that they are impressed by your situation and the difficulties under which you are working. They realize that the meat supply and price problem is a very complicated one and that many factors beyond any single control are responsible for current conditions. They are especially concerned with what can be done about the meat supply and price situation over a long period of time.

HOW to achieve an expanding cattle and beef industry? It seems to me there are two essentials. First we must be convinced that the goal is necessary and desirable, and, secondly, we must make up our minds that it can be done. If we cannot attain our goals in one way, we should be ingenious enough to develop some other way of doing it.

To have an expanding cattle and beef industry, it must be stable and profitable. It is useless to try to get people to expand numbers, work harder, take greater chances unless they can see an opportunity to make a suitable return on their investment and a good profit to justify the risk. Even though the cattle business has been profitable in recent years, beef production has been declining rather than increasing. The explanation appears to be that producers have been fearful of future trends, and rightly so. There have been no conclusive indications that profits would continue. Producers must be convinced that the industry is on a fundamentally sound basis and is likely to remain so, before there can be a permanent expansion in production . . . To have a profitable industry at lower prices, we will have to lower costs. We must develop the "know-how" for producing more beef that can be sold at lower prices and still make a good profit for the producer and the feeder.

The cost-reducing practices and developments which I visualize are not new; they have been suggested by many people, and experts are studying them all the time. Many have been perfected and proved in practice but are not in widespread use because they have not been "sold" to the individuals who must put them into practice. For example, it has long been known that the use of dehydrated alfalfa and phosphates speeds up gains in the feedlot, yet only a few of the most advanced feeders follow the practice. The use of rotenone to kill cattle grubs is another example. Many other developments need only practical application of basic knowledge acquired in the laboratory and on the experimental farm. Progeny testing is an example. Other far reaching discoveries are still in various stages of research and development. In all instances what is needed is an aggressive, continuous campaign to put every cost-reducing, efficiency-improving practice into use, and to rush the uncompleted ones to a final practical conclusion. If we will recognize the need and make a real effort, I am sure the results will be spectacular.

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TRIPLE U HEREFORD RANCH
Gettysburg, S. Dak.

L. R. (Roy) HOUCK, Mgr.

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I suppose we should start with the feed, because to produce more and better beef cattle will require more feed. Just a listing of new developments in grasses and forage crops would require many pages. The results with many of them have been almost miraculous . . . What is needed is encouragement (for the scientists) and funds to carry on the work. I am confident that eventually we can double and triple the carrying capacity of our grazing lands . . .

Other areas of research which can greatly affect feed and forage production and cost are water control, storage and utilization, brush eradication and control, erosion and soil building.

THE disease problem is still a serious one. Mortality of calves is too high all over the country. Calfhood vaccination, such as you practice in the West, for blackleg, hemorrhagic septicemia, brucellosis, pinkeye, and certain forms of scours can increase survivals markedly in many sections of the country . . .

Losses from deaths, crippling and bruises in transit are staggering. Practically all are controllable if everyone involved will apply himself to the task. Bruise-damage has been increasing in the past year. At these high prices, it becomes a significant factor in the cost of producing beef . . .

I feel there is much room for lower labor cost in raising and feeding cattle. As far as I know, little work has been done in this field, except for mechanization in some commercial feedlots; but based on what has been accomplished with other products and commodities, many possibilities do exist. Mobile cow camps, increased use of jeeps and pickups, new applications of electric power are other examples of labor-saving developments.

There are many cost-reducing opportunities in transportation, marketing, processing, wholesaling and retailing . . . All segments of the industry will benefit from an expanding production, and certainly they should all do everything within their power to help bring about the end we seek.

You should not get the impression that nothing is being done on these problems. But all in all, the progress has been slow and it seems that we will have to redouble our efforts. We need to encourage new research and development and, above all, we need to devise some means of putting new ideas, practices, grasses and crops into actual use so that we can get the benefits from them.

Land Acquisition Subject Of Florida Resolution

In convention at Orlando, members of the Florida Cattlemen's Association passed a resolution asking the Congress that no more Florida grazing lands be acquired by the federal government without approval of the association.

March, 1949

FLORIDA JOURNEY

(Continued from Page 28)

learning to overcome the mineral deficiencies of our various types of grazing land. We are learning how to master the insect problem. We see a great future for Brahman crossbreds."

Several northern men who have settled and invested in West Palm Beach and Miami foresee the day when, cattle-wise, Florida will be pretty much self-con-

tained. Now the ranchers are developing finer pastures which means faster-growing smoother beef calves. A great deal of grain can be grown to fatten cattle in the feedlots of the state. There is the high-protein molasses previously mentioned. There are cottonseed crushers—sources of meal and cake. In some of the cities in the state are men of means interested in an expansion of Florida meat packing.

While we saw in Florida on this trip and many earlier journeys a great many pasture grasses we knew, like Bermuda,

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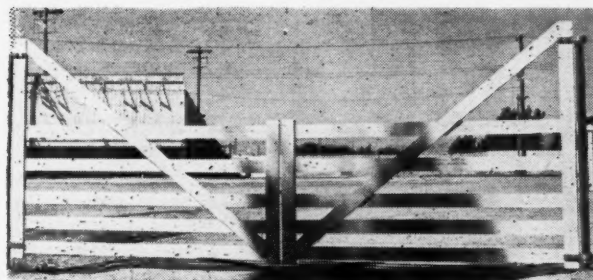
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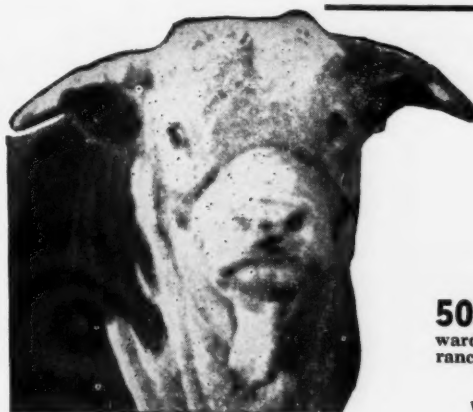
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Several herd bull prospects are included in this offering but none are highly fitted.

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there were some we learned of first in the Land of Flowers—like, for example, carpet, bahia, dallis, para and vasa grasses. There is a centipede grass that is not too well favored by the stockmen, being aggressive, hard to get rid of, hard to grow with clovers and better grasses. We have made some study of St. Augustine, pangola and cogan grasses—adapted in each instance to its own soil-type, most of them to serve a useful purpose in the further development of Florida as a great cattle land. We have



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GUY PETTIT, Auctioneer



A glimpse of fishing waters in Biscayne Bay, Miami, Fla.

seen a sort of Bermuda, larger than the ordinary sort, with the runners on the surface rather than just under the surface of the dirt.

FARMERS and cattlemen from most parts of the country will feel perfectly at home with Florida's white, crimson and red clovers. Some will know about the hop clovers, large and small, which thrive there and which cattle like. But many will have to check carefully to get the proper perspective on a winter annual known as Persian clover, and also on the Black Medic which makes a fine nutritive growth unless the lime is deficient. Among other clovers to play a useful part in the future prosperity of cattle raising in Florida can be mentioned the various bur clovers, hubam sweet clover and naturally the various good lespedezas.

A popular legume on heavy-textured soils will always be the long-vining palatable kudzu and to some degree the growing of Alsike clover will be more extensive in the future.

We do not have the space to tell all the particulars about all the grasses and legumes which, properly handled, will enable an acre of land to produce from four to five times as much beef as was commonly done in the old days on wild native grasses. Some men who have been in Florida since the turn of the century are enthusiastic concerning the future when they start describing the changes for the better which have taken place. The cattle people are organized, eager to win a bigger place in the industry, and have never felt so encouraged as at the moment. They have conviction that the American National Live Stock Association is "sold" on Florida's future. Recent visits of top officials and the Miami convention plans have made a most profound impression along all the highways.

"Not everything is perfect, of course," commented one old-timer. "We have to chase a rustler occasionally. We just must recognize the need of better breed-

ing, better feeding, watching closer in the matter of sound mineral feeding. I think the time will come with maybe three times the cattle when the water problem may be acute in places. Right now, I am told, the well drillers' organization is making a complete survey of the situation. But, basically, we have a great cattle country with a greater future."

The coast from West Palm Beach to Miami and Miami Beach is skirted by one of the loveliest of major highways—famed U. S. 1. We met an old gentleman in Miami who had fished in the Miami River and shot alligators there in the 1880's where stands this amazing city of maybe 300,000—counting Miami Beach and suburban towns generally. (Every citizen gives you a different



Conference on the landing. Joe Reynolds of Fort Worth, Tex., member of the executive committee (left); G. W. Evans of Magdalena, N. M., president of the New Mexico association. (Taken at North Platte meeting.)

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

estimated population.)

This is a land of fine fishing, all sorts, especially the deep sea sort; a land of citrus fruits, a land of palms and other tropical trees; a land different from most others in most respects and yet filled with the same type of steadfast American one finds in St. Louis, St. Paul or just Solitude Corner. The business people enjoy the winter business, but they also realize that a great measure of the prosperity of Florida-to-be must come from the soil, especially from pasture crops in the production of beef cattle and other profitable livestock.

Proper Land Use

(Continued from Page 31)

owners themselves. I understand that many of the large ranch men have been dubious about this movement, have felt it might in some way injure them, or have been advised by their lawyers that it is another federal scheme to take them over: I know there are some here in this room.

I hope you will go back and study the law, and see that this is a sound movement. It may be a little different from your thinking but it is sound, and it is one of the ways we can prevent something far worse.

We have in America 2,000 of these



Oregonians O. D. Hotchkiss of Burns, president of that state's cattlemen's association; Dorman Turner of Burns, the secretary; Harry Stearns, first vice-president, Prineville; Henry Gerber, Klamath Falls; Sherman Guttridge of Prairie City, past president of the group. (Picture taken at North Platte.)

soil conservation districts (2,088 to be exact). There are some in every state of the Union. Some states are entirely covered by them; in other states only a small number have been created. But throughout the country we now find about three-fourths of the agricultural land of America within the boundaries of soil conservation districts. That does not mean that all the land in that district has been treated as it should be treated. Unfortunately we have in 10

years only persuaded about 10 per cent of the farmers and ranchers in America to adopt soil conservation plans and programs on their lands.

What is this district, really? A district is nothing more than a group of land owners and operators who have set themselves up with certain benefits and privileges and also certain obligations under a state law to cooperate with any agency—be it federal, be it state, be it private—that will help them get across a program of proper

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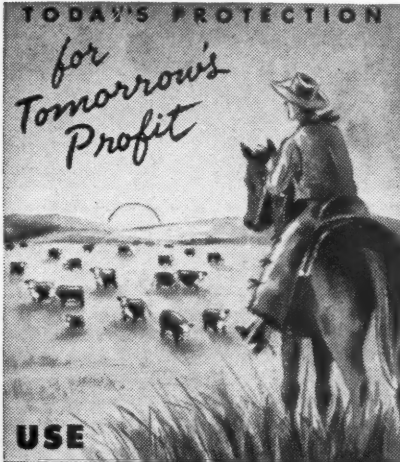
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land use in their district. I believe that the soil conservation district is one of the basic tools with which we can get this job done in America without changing our form of government. That is why I believe so intensely in it. These districts in most instances are operated by five farmers, and in most states

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the five farmers are elected by the other land owners. In my state, having a very bad enabling act, they are appointed by the county government. In some states two of the members are appointed by the governor or by the state committee and the others are elected. This varies, from state to state.

But it means that with 2,000 districts we have 10,000 farmers in America trying to do this job and not receiving one penny of salary from the federal government. In some states they get paid a per diem or mileage from a state fund or a county fund. In some states they operate absolutely for free and give their time for nothing and in most cases they are leaders in their communities. So we have got a good start, with 10,000 farmers and ranchers behind this job.

We have also in those ten years cooperated with and worked out these long-term plans with 500,000 land owners and operators in America (again about 10 per cent of the land-owning population).

I know that there has been much confusion, and I hope I can make this thing clear. Probably the first thing a district does is to sign an agreement with the Department of Agriculture to get a technician or several technicians. The five farmers run the policy of the district. They never go on the land of anybody who doesn't want them. But when an owner asks for their assistance, what does that owner get? He gets a trained technician to come out, and possibly one of the directors or supervisors of the district. And they sit down and go over his land on an airplane map. They get the owner to draw out the boundaries. Quite often they may go over the land itself to find out whether this owner wants to be a rancher, cattleman, sheepman, hogman, dairyman or a cotton grower. And then with a great deal of technical knowledge and ability they attempt to work out a plan which doesn't have to be complete in a year or two, but to which that rancher owner or farmer can work so that he will eventually have every acre put to its best use and treated according to its capabilities so that he will make more money on his land and will preserve that land for the future. That is what we are trying to do and I believe it is basically sound.

THERE are something like 70 or 80 different practices that may be used in formulating these plans. It may be simply with a pasture improvement program. It may be the construction of dams or waterholes or stock tanks as you call them, so that your cattle will be better distributed over your range land and not concentrate in one place and eat all the grass and then have to go a long way for water. It is that plan that we hope you will adopt and we hope also you will take an interest

in your soil conservation district and see that it is run properly and not as a tool of the federal or state government.

We have an association of these district supervisors. We are meeting in Denver in February of this year, the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th. I hope that this association will be well-represented. We have many of your members as conservation district supervisors or directors who will be at that meeting and help us come to a conclusion and a policy and a program on many of the important problems that face us. We are not going to have a lot of speakers. As a matter of fact we are going to have only one in three days; the balance of the time is going to be spent on committee work and on the hearing by the full body of the committee reports and voting thereon. I hope any and all of you will feel free to attend that meeting and if you are not there as supervisors of districts I would be glad to arrange for you to circulate with some of these committees and hear their debates and hear their attempts to formulate our policies. We need sound thinking in America to make this program go well.

Fortunately for us there are 1,700-odd stockmen west of the Mississippi who are supervisors or directors of soil conservation districts. Mr. Alan Rogers, who is chairman of your Public Relations Committee, helped organize the soil conservation district in and around Ellensburg, Wash. I have a list here with me of other prominent members of your association who have cooperated with, helped to organize, or who run soil conservation districts. . .



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There is another important question — that of the relationship between private owners and the public lands. I would be a fool if I attempted to offer you a perfect solution, but there are certain things I would like to discuss with you. Of course those of us in the East—and I don't mean just dairymen, but stockmen and ranchers—don't know the problem. But it occurs to me that this problem is a bit like a boil that you may have. It is the biggest thing in your mind, and yet when you think about it, how big is it compared to the rest of your functioning body and your brain? How much does it slow you up? It is on your mind, all right, but what portion of your activity is it and how much does it hurt your activity? I think that this public land problem, as far as the nation is concerned and most of the stockmen of America, is in that position—it is sore, it is touchy, but it isn't a big part of our economy and we must look at it from that angle. Now, granted it is a very vital thing for those people who have to contend with it and have to use the public range; and it is a very vital thing to the rest of us because it is part and parcel of this difficult job that we have of dealing with government. We haven't faced up to this government of ours sufficiently as individual citizens. But if we can force the government to use its lands as we expect private landowners to use theirs—that is properly, we will have conquered the problem.

... (Another problem is the question of river authorities.) ...

UNFORTUNATELY for America, as our civilization and history developed we attacked our water problem the wrong way around; we attacked it from the bottom up instead of the top down.) We haven't yet attacked the upper regions. The army engineers took first the main stream, then the Department of Interior the branches; and now the Department of Agriculture comes up with a great new flood control program to try to control the water from where it starts to where the Department of the Interior takes an interest.

If the citizens of the Missouri Valley will take an intense interest in the development of these federal programs and help guide them by intelligent criticism, they can control them far better than they can be controlled by another authority. And I feel very strongly that the same thing is true of the question of the use of public lands. Again it is intelligent public opinion, and only that, that can solve the problem.

I was very keenly interested in Cliff Hope's bill, the land policy bill introduced in the last Congress. I know many of the stockmen and ranchers were opposed to that bill, but I honestly believe that their opposition to it came mainly from two sources: First, there wasn't a thorough understanding of the bill itself

and what we were trying to do; and, second, I think it came from a fault in the bill itself—it wasn't sufficiently specific on some of the problems that affected you.

That bill, basically, tried to take every agency of the federal government that had to do with the proper use of agricultural land and put it into one agency that we as citizens could co-operate with and beat on if they did

not act properly. But what was that agency to do? That agency was to start immediately and make a survey of our economic natural renewable resources, and an effort was to be made to see how they could best be used.

When you think of some of the troubles you have had with public agencies and think if we could have forced them to put down on paper what the best use for every land was and take an

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interest in it, I believe we could have a better agricultural policy than we have today. The Hope Bill died in committee.

WE have a new chairman of the agricultural committee of the House, Mr. Cooley. We have this new Hoover Report to contend with. It may go the way of other government investigations of that kind, but it certainly will contain many constructive suggestions. So, if we will take hold of this new legislation and think of the problem of proper land use as I have been trying to explain it to you today, we will get an agricultural policy that will make sense, not only for ourselves, but for the whole country—and the only way we can do that is by intelligent public opinion.

In closing, I would like to say this to you: The CIO is in your corner.—You should read their publicity on proper land use. I know that in this public land issue certain other important persons have said things that made you boil; that you did not like. I mention particularly a very strong organization called the Isaak Walton League. I am not a member of it. They send me a lot of their stuff to read. Last night at the hotel there was a letter from them. To my intense surprise I came across this, and it was so interesting in the light of this public opinion discussion that I thought I would read it to you.

"Do you know that the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior is spending or proposing to spend, \$400,000 to put chromium railings and neon lights along the top of the Grand Coulee Dam, so that it will glitter prettily for the visitors? You could put in a lot of check dams and do a lot of reseeding in the upper Columbia watershed with \$400,000."

Is a fellow that talks like that a friend of ours, or isn't he? I believe he is. And I believe a little cooperative, intelligent work with them will prove to your benefit and mine, just as it will with the CIO.

I hope I have drawn a picture for you of the whole agricultural setup as it faces this new and increasing population of ours, and I hope you will realize with me that the only solution is a gigantic cooperative and intelligent effort on the part of the public.

PERSONAL ITEMS

Executive Committeeman Warner B. Snider of Paisley, Ore., writes that he could not make it to North Platte because of an accident he was in the first of December. Still "a bit wobbly on his feet," he reports he is, however, getting back to normal again now.

* * *

Cutter Laboratories announce the appointment of John Conter as veterinary specialist for the Seattle, Wash., district.

New Ownership Data

THE USDA says approximately 72 per cent of all farms in the country were

operated in 1949 by owners in full or in part (part owners operate land they rent in addition to their own.) This ownership figure is the highest since 1890, when data on farm tenancy was first assembled.

Texas Crop Changes

ABOUT 40 PER CENT of the total income of Texas farmers now comes from livestock and livestock products. This marks a definite change since 25 years ago, when farmers of the Lone Star State received around 70 per cent of their income from cotton. Other crops—fruits, grains, etc.—are also bringing in a greater proportion of the total receipts now.

Obituaries

Francis Douglas (Doug) Gusman: At Portland, Ore., following several months of illness. A native of Pleasant Valley, Ida., and a well-known life-long resident of Jordan Valley, Mr. Gusman would have been 29 years old on Nov. 25. His death occurred shortly before that date.

I. B. (Doc) Cauble: Age 75, at his home near Big Springs, Tex. Mr. Cauble was the developer of one of the first purebred herds in west Texas, which he began operating soon after the turn of the century.

Lawrence Quealey: Son of Michael Quealey, Sr., operator of Quealey Land & Livestock Company of Elk Mountain, Wyo., since 1885. Lawrence Quealey was born at Rock Springs in 1870. His father was one of the first members of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association.

Mr. Sinclair: The father of F. H. Sinclair of Sheridan, Wyo., who is the public relations advisor of the American National Live Stock Association.

Arthur G. Leonard: Chairman of the board of the International Live Stock Exposition, president of the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company and honorary lifetime member of the American National, at his Chicago home on Feb. 4. Mr. Leonard was born in New York in 1862 and went to Chicago in 1899 to take over operation of the Stock Yards there; in 1900 he became general manager. In the years since then he has been responsible for the rebuilding of more than 200 acres of the pens section of the yards and directed many improvements and innovations in the market's facilities. He is credited in large part with the originating and development of the International Live Stock Exposition, and among his many interests was included the work of the 4-H clubs in the formative period of that movement. He was instrumental in the founding of the famous Saddle and Sirloln Club, with its world-celebrated portrait gallery of leaders of the livestock industry, and in 1922 he built the Los Angeles Stock Yards.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

F. & M. Progress Satisfactory

The Livestock Industry Advisory Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease in a recent two-day session at Washington expressed satisfaction with progress of the program to eradicate the disease in Mexico and urged Agriculture Secretary Brannon to continue this country's active participation with Mexico as a protection to the U. S. livestock industry.

Recently, a young American livestock inspector was stabbed to death by a mob that attacked an inspection crew. This was the first act of open hostility since early in the campaign, when slaughter was the major phase of the attempt to eradicate the disease. The Mexican government took prompt and

strict measures against the perpetrators of the crime.

The Research Advisory Committee on the disease re-affirmed the need of a long-range research program on foot-and-mouth in this country, as the Mexican program has brought to the surface many gaps in technical knowledge about the disease and means for bringing it under control.

A speed-up in the eradication campaign will come with the decision to begin re-vaccination in a four-month period instead of six months on susceptible animals that are not exposed to the disease.



Technicians at Mexico City airport disinfect shoes belonging to plane travelers.

TRANSPORTATION NOTES

The Union Pacific and Burlington railroads have indicated that where hay shipments were made in and for the storm area, and no specific rates were available in the tariff or the rates were unreasonably high, they would reduce them to a parity with rates now in effect over routes where hay is ordinarily moved. So, those who have had to ship in feed and particularly hay, should send their freight bills to Charles E. Blaine & Son, 901 Title & Trust Bldg., Phoenix, Ariz., traffic manager for the American National. No charge for this unless a refund is secured, in which case it will be 25 per cent.

There's a bill in Congress to repeal the Bulwinkle measure which authorizes rate bureaus for railroads in different sections of the country through which many proposed tariff amendments can be cleared before they are actually filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission. Shippers are allowed to file protests with these rate bureaus over items proposed, and in this way much expense is saved in the operation of our own traffic department. It would be very expensive if any railroad filed individual tariff amendments without operating

through such a rate bureau and it would tremendously increase the expense of the tariff-watching service now maintained for us by Charles E. Blaine and his staff. It is not deemed likely that there is sufficient steam behind this move to bring about repeal of the law.

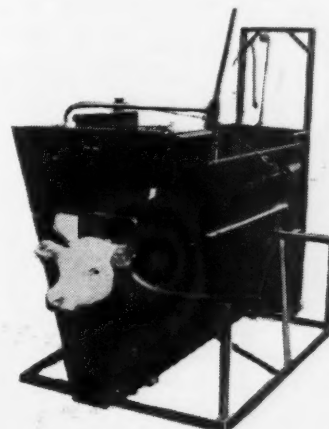
USDA on Canadian Imports

The Department of Agriculture reasons that Canada may ship to the United States this year between 300,000 and 400,000 head of cattle and calves, if Canadian consumption returns to pre-war levels—"which hardly seems likely." But if Canadian consumers are to eat beef and veal as much as in the past five or six years, very few animals will be exported, says the department.

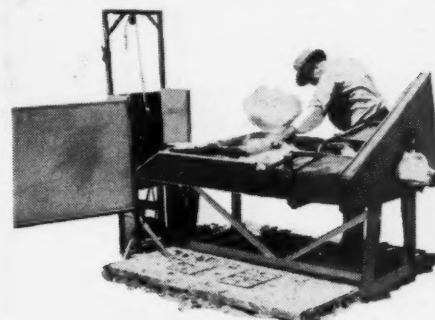
Watch Out for Hoppers

THE USDA says it's not too early to begin planning a grasshopper campaign for the coming season, which bids fair to reach a 10-year high in the infestation cycle, particularly between the Mississippi and the Rockies. (Two new materials, if used with proper safeguard, are suggested for supplemental control; they are chlordane and texaphene.)

TECO PRODUCTS



TECO Calf Chute



Calf Chute in Tilted Position

Write for Information

Thompson & Gill, Inc.
Madera, Calif.

WIN WITH THE MODERN BREED



Angus cattle rank first as producers of superior beef. Winning three times as many Interbreed grand championships at the Chicago International as all other breeds combined, the Angus record includes 41 grand champion carcasses in 43 shows. You, too, can breed champions with Angus. For information write:

American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association
"Superior Beef Breed"

Dept. A, 7 Dexter Park Avenue, Chicago 9, Ill.

MAKE MORE PROFITS UNDER AVERAGE FARM CONDITIONS -RAISE MILKING SHORTHORNS

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Personal Mention

The two gentlemen so expertly rollin' their own on last month's cover were Claude Olson of Ludlow, S. D., and Jack Mansfield of Vega, Tex. This exhibition of one of the American cowman's oldest skills was preserved by a picture-taker at the North Platte convention, where the two men were elected vice-presidents of the American National.

Colonel Paul P. Logan, director of food and equipment research for the National Restaurant Association at Chicago, pictured upon his retirement from active duty with the army. One of the programmed speakers at the recently held American National convention in North Platte, Col. Logan delivered a highly informative address on the public feeding industry in this country, particularly with respect to the meat it uses.



Colonel Logan

Colonel Edward N. Wentworth, head of Armour's livestock bureau, was the surprised recipient of a set of sterling silver hollow ware at the recent convention of the National Wool Growers in San Antonio. The gift was presented as a token of appreciation for his authorship of the book, "America's Sheep Trails."

Harry B. Coffee has been re-elected president of the Union Stock Yards Company of Omaha; E. R. Handy, vice-president and general manager; H. L. Van Amburgh, vice-president; G. J. Wurde-mann, treasurer; K. L. Simpson, secretary; S. E. Jones, assistant secretary.

Mrs. Rosa Belle Stroh of Parker, Colo., was named "Farm Champion of the Week" on the Jan. 8 R.F.D. America radio show. She is the mother of Mrs. Ruth Pitman, secretary to Secretary B. F. Davis of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association.

It is interesting to note that Charles E. Myers of Evanston and Russell Thorp of Cheyenne, among the very few Wyoming people who were able to get to the North Platte meeting this year, were the only two men from their state who attended the annual convention of the National at Salt Lake City just 49 years ago. (Mr. Myers this year was voted into a vice-presidency; Mr. Thorp is secretary of the Wyoming Stock Growers.)

William A. Hilton, Salt Lake City attorney, has been appointed assistant hearing officer to handle appeals on grazing matters from a number of western states for the Bureau of Land Management.

CALENDAR

Mar. 8-10—Convention, Kansas Livestock Assn., Wichita.
Mar. 14-15—Convention, Louisiana Cattlemen's Assn., Monroe.
Mar. 22-23—Convention, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers, Houston.
Mar. 28-29—35th annual convention, New Mexico Cattle Growers Assn., Albuquerque.
Apr. 9-14—Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition.
Apr. 11-12—Convention, Idaho Cattlemen's Assn., Boise.
May 1—Sonoma (Ariz.) Quarter Horse Show.
May 2-3—California Ram Sale, Sacramento.
May 16-18—Convention, Oregon Cattlemen's Assn., Pendleton.
May 20-21—Convention, Washington Cattlemen's Assn., Colville.
May 26-28—Montana Stockgrowers Assn. convention, Missoula.
June 2-4—58th annual convention, South Dakota Stock Growers, Sturgis.

THE COVER

The singularly appropriate picture we use this month was taken by C. J. Belden, former Wyoming rancher.

FEDERALLY INSP. SLAUGHTER

	(In Thousands)	
	January 1949	January 1948
Cattle	1,126	1,312
Calves	484	586
Hogs	5,377	5,223
Sheep, Lambs	1,235	1,347

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	(New York)	
	Feb. 21, '49	Feb. 17, '48
Steer & Helper, Ch.	\$41.00-43.00	\$47.00-50.00
Steer & Helper, Gd.	38.00-40.00	40.00-44.00
Steer & Helper, Com.	36.00-38.00	
Cow—Commercial	33.00-35.00	33.00-36.00
Veal—Choice	48.00-51.00	45.00-48.00
Veal—Good	41.00-46.00	39.00-44.00
Lamb—Choice	44.00-50.00	38.00-45.00
Pork Loin—8-12 lbs.	48.00-50.00	45.00-47.00

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Feb. 23, '49		Feb. 16, '48	
Steers—Choice	\$25.50-29.50	\$27.50-35.00		
Steers—Good	23.00-26.00	24.00-29.50		
Steers—Medium	20.50-23.50	20.00-25.50		
Vealers—Gd.-Ch.	19.00-21.50	24.00-26.00		
Calves—Gd.-Ch.	23.00-29.00	20.00-23.00		
F. & S. Strs.—Gd.-Ch.	22.00-25.50	22.00-25.50		
F. & S. Strs.—Cm.-Med.	18.50-22.00	17.50-22.00		
Hogs—(200-240 lbs.)	20.75-21.75	23.75-24.75		
Lambs—Gd.-Ch.	23.75-24.75	22.50-23.50		
Ewes—Gd.-Ch.	10.50-13.00	12.50-13.00		

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

	(In Thousands of Pounds)				
	Feb. 1 1949	Jan. 1 1949	Feb. 1 1948	Jan. 1 1948	Avg.
Frozen Beef	136,189	132,926	160,815	167,150	
Cured Beef	16,149	16,403	15,295	11,375	
Total Beef	152,338	149,329	176,110	178,525	
Lamb, Mutton	22,482	26,209	19,294	21,691	
Lard and Rend.					
Pork Fat	161,857	116,397	133,513	133,904	
Total Poultry	148,466	160,834	293,640	285,981	

Letter from Skull Creek

Dear Editor:

Well I am glad it is the first of March. This has been a tough winter here on Skull creek. What with feeding and caring for that bunch of pure-breds, feeding the stock cattle and fighting the deep snows we sure have been busy. This has been the hardest winter I can remember and I can remember for a good long time. We will be glad to see green grass come this spring.

Calving is under way and the women folks were right about feeding more hay and cake as the cows are in a little better condition than usual and the calves are a little more thrifty. We only last 2 head of cows that we know of and they were passed up in some way and got covered up in a cut coulee by one of those blizzards. Those sleds the old man bought came in very handy several times this winter to haul hay out to the feed grounds.

There is no fence the cattle can bunch up against from the north end of the ranch down to where the buildings are. We had nearly all the stock in the meadows before the first storm broke and they had lots of protection in the sheds and among the willows along the creek. However, we sure looked after them, I mean we were busy all the time.

We caught up a fine 3-year-old stockinged foot light sorrel mare that I am breaking for Hazel and will have her well broke by the time spring comes, if it ever does. Hazel will certainly look fine mounted on this mare with the saddle and bridle I bought for her while at the stock show in Denver. She is light on her feet and has a fine disposition (I mean the mare) and it is

a pleasure to ride her.

It is somewhat peculiar to be the husband of a wealthy woman. I don't wear Levis to town any more but wear those cow man clothes I bought in Denver. When Texas and me used to go to town if we met that no good sheriff he would say what in hell are you fellows doing here? Take it easy or you'll land in the jail house. Now he says good morning gentlemen. How are things out on Skull creek? Some day I am going to haul off and bop that jaybird right in the eye just for fun. I don't like him.

Whenever our cook has an hour or 2 to spare from his work he goes out coyote hunting. He sure gets a kick out of that sport and has shot 12 coyotes so far this winter. He is a very good shot, a regular Bill Hickock with either rifle or revolver. However, he likes to tell about an old prospector he was out with years ago over in Idaho, says he was an expert with a pistol. He said they were making camp one evening at the foot of a cliff up in the Courdelanes when he noticed a bob cat peeking down from a ledge at them. He called the prospector's attention to it who pulled his gun and shot from the hip. The bob cat fell back from the ledge. Of course Utah (that's the cook's name) looked up there again, once more seeing the cat. The prospector shot again and the cat fell back. This happened 6 times. The prospector became exasperated and asked him if he would go up there and see what it was all about. Our cook clambered up and around until he reached the ledge and found 6 dead bob cats all shot through the right eye.

Yours truly,
William (Bill) Wescott.

MEATS

Feb. 17, '48
47.00-50.00
40.00-44.00

33.00-36.00
45.00-48.00
39.00-44.00
38.00-45.00
45.00-47.00

PRICES

Feb. 16, '48
27.50-35.00
24.00-29.50
20.00-25.50
24.00-28.00
20.00-23.00
22.00-25.50
17.50-22.00
23.75-24.75
22.50-23.50
22.50-13.00

NGS

Feb. 1
Avg.
167,159
11,375
501,872
21,691
133,964
285,982

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Letters TO THE EDITOR

(Cont.
from
Page 4)

FEAST OR FAMINE—1948 was the driest year we have ever had in my section. Water was quite a problem on my ranch, with two springs gone dry and three dry tanks. Had the drouth continued for another year, I would have had to feed a lot. However, we have had rain and snow almost continuously since Dec. 24. I haven't been able to get to my ranch for two weeks now and it is snowing there again today. I have a good man on the ranch and he will be doing all he can for the stock.—D. U. Claridge, Maricopa County, Ariz.

NORTH DAKOTA LOSS LIGHT—We are again having extremely cold weather and the snow has been blowing and drifting for the past two months. However, there has been very little loss of live-stock reported. We have a haylift working out of Minot and the army has recently taken over the opening of side roads, so that coal shortages will soon be remedied.—Odd A. Osteros, secretary, North Dakota Stockmen's Assn.

DOESN'T AGREE—I read an article last fall on which I took the opposite viewpoint to the writer. He wrote that "a large herd of cattle will get out and rustle, reporting no death losses, while a small herd will hang around and starve." I have been an operator now for many years, running a medium sized herd of cattle, and am able to say that my herd does not hang around and starve—they rustle. This winter, with the severest kind of blizzards and wind storms (in Wyoming), I can report that I fed my cattle daily despite blizzards and that they are looking good, considering the severe storms they went through. I consider myself fortunate that I had no losses. Taking the winters at an average, it can be noticed in the vast areas there's a bigger toll of losses in the larger herds than in the medium sized herds.—"Experienced."

ANOTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE—Feed on the desert sections of Arizona will not develop unless we have more rain. In the Williams-Flagstaff section snow is melting fast. Heavy losses have been sustained by all stockmen in this area. Increased water supplies and forage will in some measure compensate for these losses. It has been the worst winter known in this country.—Homer D. Smith, Maricopa County, Ariz.

THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR—Seems nice to have had a few days of warm sunshine again after weeks and months of unusual cold. However, we are thankful that we have not had snow enough to stop us from feeding any place on the ranch with trucks without chains, so far. The cattle look fine and I have

not heard of any losses around here. We had several calves come in 20 to 34 degrees below zero outside; and though, they were minus a few ears for tatooing, they are 100 per cent alive. Another blessing: We have had no wind this winter.—Carl Dunrud, Park County, Wyo.

FEED HIGH AND SCARCE—Lots of snow at this time in Lund. Feed is scarce and awfully high priced. Some loss in cattle; don't know what per cent at this time.—Carlyle Peacock, White Pine County, Nev.

FROM AN OCTOGENARIAN—I have been a member of the National and California cattle associations since about the time they were organized . . . now my son has taken over.—Chas J. Wood, Contra Costa County, Calif.

NEW American National MEMBERS

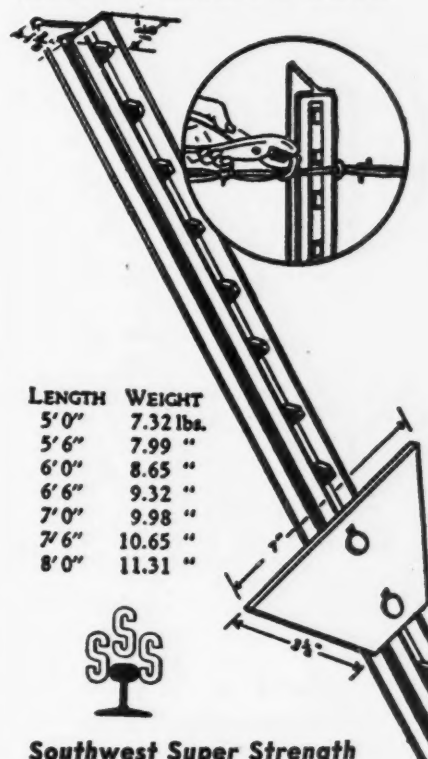
ARIZONA: R. S. Dixon.
CALIFORNIA: Fred T. Reynolds; Ed Kloss, Jr.
COLORADO: Lewis G. Mullings; Simon Off.
IDAHO: Lars P. Larsen.
ILLINOIS: Gillogly & Company; Gilbert Gusler; Harry Wertheimer.
KANSAS: Bob White.
LOUISIANA: R. R. Fleming.
NEBRASKA: R. A. Frame & Son; Clarence Runner; C. L. Peterson; J. C. Paxton; Reede Reynolds.
NORTH DAKOTA: Jacob W. Heinle; T. E. Hudson.
OREGON: Ontario Live Stock Commission Co.; Robert W. Reed; Forrest E. Cooper; Arthur Knight & Sons; J. W. McClaran; John O. McFetridge.
UTAH: James Lyle Thornell; Rulon Somerville; Mrs. H. B. Carlisle.
WASHINGTON: George M. Hafer; Frank B. Lenzie.
WYOMING: George D. Eubank; A. Holland.

Western Oregon Meeting

Members of the Western Oregon Live-stock Association in their recent convention voted approval of a proposed new state brand law which would require inspection of animals in transit or delivered for slaughter. The stockmen also passed a resolution favoring a state retail sales tax as a measure to aid in increasing revenues without increasing property taxes. They also asked that the Oregon law with respect to Bang's disease remain unchanged; requested federal funds to aid in control of predatory animals, and urged some state action on wildlife damage.

Charles A. Evans of Independence was re-elected to the presidency; Afton Zundel of Astoria was named vice-president, and Harry Lindgren of Corvallis remains in the secretarial post.

Super Strength Studded T STEEL FENCE POSTS



LENGTH	WEIGHT
5'0"	7.32 lbs.
5'6"	7.99 "
6'0"	8.65 "
6'6"	9.32 "
7'0"	9.98 "
7'6"	10.65 "
8'0"	11.31 "



Southwest Super Strength studded-T fence posts

• Made from Rail Steel • Tough and Dependable • Easy to Drive • Long Lasting • Furnished With Galvanized Wire Fasteners.

Immediate Delivery—Any Quantity

PLAY SAFE ORDER NOW

Anything in Steel

Write, Wire or Call

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735 North 19th Ave. Phone 4-5621
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WATER REPELLENT—DOWN AND FEATHER. Brand new government surplus materials make this type mummy sleeping bag the finest of its kind available. Down and feather filled, convenient, easy zipper closure, combined to provide restful sleeping under the most adverse conditions. Properly quilted to prevent bunching. Lowest price in U.S. for first quality new sleeping bag.
Send Money Order Today Only \$11.95
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U. S. CONSUMER BEDDING CO.

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POLLED SHORTHORN BULLS FOR SALE

8 TO 14 MONTHS OF AGE
Double R. Polled Shorthorns

ROY R. RUTLEDGE
WOODWARD, OKLAHOMA

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March, 1949

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RANCHES

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Would you like to buy a good Stock Ranch? Contact us.

We specialize exclusively in handling sales of Western Stock Ranches, large set-ups in particular.

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Blossomtime Ranch Saratoga, Calif.
We're as near as your phone.
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W. King Monroe and Viola I. Monroe, Realtors
Cooperation with Reliable Brokers invited.

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WANT to buy for cash, central Calif. cattle range which will carry from 500 to 2,000 head. Will pay top price for good outfit. R. W. Didcock, Bank of America Bldg., Fresno, Calif. Phone 29147.

I HAVE buyers for large western cattle ranches. Bob Manuel, Colorado, Texas.

FLORIDA

Large and small ranches for sale in Florida. Even climate the year 'round. Ideal for cattle, sheep, hogs and timber. Invite inquiries.

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P. O. Box 446 Tallahassee, Florida

RANCH LOANS

NOTE TO RANCHMEN: I'd like my friends in the ranch industry to know that I am connected with the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company and am in a position to make any size loan on any ranch in Western and Northwestern part of the United States. IRA GREEN, 310 South Chadbourne, San Angelo, Texas, Office Phone 6483.

AUCTION SCHOOL

LEARN AUCTIONEERING. Free catalog. Reisch Auction School, Mason City, Iowa.

BOOKS

Do you find it difficult to secure information about sheep and sheep ranching methods? The Sheep and Goat Raiser reaches more sheepmen with more information on range sheep than any magazine published. Subscriptions, \$1.50. Hotel Cactus, San Angelo, Texas.

CHICKS

AAA HUSKY OZARK BRED CHICKS—White and brown Leghorns, black Minorcas, unsexed \$12.50, pullets \$20.00, four weeks pullets \$32.00, cocks \$3.90. Heavy breeds unsexed \$12.50, assorted \$8.90 per 100, live delivery guaranteed. WARSAW HATCHERY, WARSAW, MO.

CATTLE

FOR SALE—45 head near purebred Brahma heifer calves. A. Vandeventer, Dunning, Nebr.

BRAHMAN CATTLE FOR SALE

1,200 Yearling steers and heifers

300 Bred heifers

100 Long Yearling Reg. Bulls

150 Long Yearling Hereford Bulls

50 Yearling Braford Bulls

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Chandler, Ariz. Phones Chandler 328, 80R11

Phone Phoenix 5-7033

COYOTE BAIT

CATCH coyotes with real coyote bait. Will attract coyotes and cats and any fur-bearing animal. Price \$3.00 per three ounce bottle. Also coyote getter bait for cyanide guns. \$3.00 per three ounce bottle. W. C. BURROWS, Rotan, Texas, Box 402.

DOGS

REGISTERED COLLIES from the best blood line obtainable. Sables, tri-colors, Whites. Puppies, Matrons, Sires. GIARC Ranches, P. O. Box 732 A, Barstow, Calif.

ENGLISH Shepherds—Border Collies. America's most useful dogs. Puppies, all ages. Both sexes, choice colors. Faithful workers. Satisfaction guaranteed. Fairmount Farms, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

AIREDALE PUPPIES, grown dogs. Stud service. Fairchance Farm, Danielson, Conn.

GENUINE English Shepherd puppies, guaranteed, heelers, watchdogs, real companions. Russell Wahl, Rockport, Ind.

FOR EFFICIENT HERDING try a Registered Border Collie. I can supply you with the best from Imported Stock. Miriam Peryam, Encampment, Wyo.

TOP QUALITY SAINT BERNARDS
Booking orders now for March litter from imported Swiss stock. \$75 and \$100.

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Route 3, Box 116, Eugene, Oregon

GAME

WANTED TO BUY: Old Common Barn Pigeons. Write IRA G. JONES, 724 Jewel, Danville, Ill.

GRASS

King Ranch Yellow Bluestem and other grasses suitable for reseeding purposes. Write GUY HUTCHINSON, Box 2754, San Antonio, Texas.

GUNS

AMMUNITION—8m/m Mannlicher Schoenauer, 8m/m Mauser, 7.7m/m Jap, 6.5x57 Mauser, in soft point or open point \$3.50 per box. List of other popular calibers available for stamp. Jack Alves, Box 404, Manchester, Conn.

NEW guns at manufacturer's minimum. Fair trade price. Specify gun wanted. Featuring heavy duck guns, skeet guns, trap guns, with matted rib or ventilated rib. Cyr Arms, Manchester, New Hampshire.

WE CHANGE your .32-40 to .32 Special Caliber. \$10.00. Jap 7.7 to .300 Sav., \$15.00. ORAHOOD GUN SHOP, ORDWAY, COLO.

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